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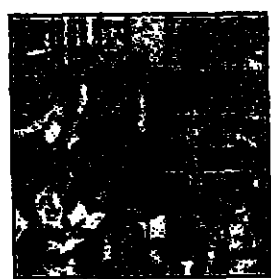
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House authorizes Clinton impeachment inquiry

By LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — A somber US House of Representatives yesterday authorized a wide-ranging impeachment inquiry of President Bill Clinton, making him the third chief executive in history to face the threat of being removed from office.

The investigation was approved by a 258-176 vote, with 31 Democrats joining majority Republicans.

"We want to get this behind us and behind the country and move on," said

Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde. "It's an onerous, miserable, rotten duty, but we have to do it or we break faith with the people who sent us here."

The controversy "has hurt our nation and it has hurt our children," House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt declared in a final plea for limits in a debate that stretched far beyond the planned two hours. "We must not compound the hurt."

Republicans rejected Democratic arguments that Clinton's attempt to conceal an affair with Lewinsky was not impeachable conduct, saying the issue

was not sexual conduct, but lying under oath.

Clinton appealed to Congress yesterday for a "timely" impeachment inquiry but otherwise said, "It's not in my hands."

"I hope that we can now move forward in this process in a way that is fair, that is constitutional and that is timely," Clinton told reporters.

The Republican resolution directs the Judiciary Committee to investigate "whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its

constitutional power to impeach William Jefferson Clinton, president of the United States of America."

The House rejected by a mostly party-line vote of 236-198 a Democratic alternative that would have limited the scope, set a December 31 deadline, and asked that the Judiciary Committee first consider the historical standards for impeachment before deciding Clinton's fate.

In contrast to united Republicans, Democrats displayed their divisions in the debate. "The president betrayed his wife; he did not betray the country," said

Rep. Robert Wexler, a freshman Democrat from Florida. "God help this nation if we fail to recognize the difference."

But Rep. Paul McClellan of Pennsylvania, the first congressional Democrat to call for Clinton's resignation, said the president was guilty of "repeated deceit under oath" in the Paula Jones lawsuit and "deceived the American people" about his conduct.

Meanwhile, in Little Rock, Arkansas, US District Judge Susan Webber Wright said yesterday she will ease her gag order

in Paula Jones's sexual harassment lawsuit against Clinton and begin releasing evidence from the case within two weeks. Transcripts of depositions will be posted on the court's Internet site beginning October 19; videotapes, including one showing Clinton, will remain under seal.

The last presidential impeachment inquiry was authorized in 1974 against Richard Nixon. The only other president to face the possibility of removal was Andrew Johnson, the successor to Abraham Lincoln. The Senate came within one vote of removing him in 1868.

Sharon to be named FM next week — sources

By DANNA HARMAN, SARAH HONIG, and MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon is expected to be named foreign minister within a week and his current portfolio is likely to go to the National Religious Party, sources said yesterday.

The prospective appointments are seen as a sign that preparations for a peace deal is under way in the week leading up to the planned three-way summit on October 15 of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Bill Clinton, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at Wye Plantation in Maryland.

Netanyahu assured NRP ministers at a meeting called at their urging yesterday that he has "no intention of buckling to pressure by the other participants in the summit."

He also agreed to convene the cabinet before he heads for the summit.

Aside from warning Netanyahu against yielding to pressure, the NRP also wants the government to spell out guidelines that would be binding in negotiations.

Netanyahu also said that "an understanding had been reached with the Americans regarding the process of determining the extent of the third redeployment."

Referring to a letter by former secretary of state Warren Christopher which empowered Israel to decide on the size of the withdrawals in the different phases, Netanyahu added that:

"The Americans are aware that we reserve the right to demand a pullback of no more than 1 percent as stipulated in the Christopher letter."

NRP members noted last night, however, that Christopher's undertaking did not prevent the Americans from applying massive pressure for a 15% pullback in the second redeployment.

NRP Education Minister Yitzhak Levy maintained after the meeting that "the clarifications we received will make the continued existence of this government possible, on condition that they are indeed adhered to and strictly so."

The NRP had been threatening in recent days to help topple the government if Netanyahu does not insist on full and unequivocal reciprocity from the Palestinians.

See SHARON, Page 12

| SHABBAT | BEGINS | ENDS |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Jerusalem | 4:38 p.m. | 5:49 p.m. |
| Tel Aviv | 4:56 p.m. | 5:51 p.m. |
| Haifa | 4:48 p.m. | 5:49 p.m. |
| Beersheba | 4:55 p.m. | 5:52 p.m. |
| Eilat | 4:54 p.m. | 5:51 p.m. |



Hebron riots

Rescuers carry Agence France Press photographer Husam Abu Alam, who was shot in the head with a rubber bullet by IDF troops during Hebron rioting yesterday. Story, Page 2. (AP)

Police probe baby's decapitation at birth

By JUDY SIEGEL

Pathologists at the Forensic Medicine Institute at Abu Kabir were to perform an autopsy last night on the remains of a baby boy accidentally decapitated during his delivery at Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital last Saturday.

The body was exhumed from its grave in the Beduin village of Kamaneh last night by order of a Tiberias District Court judge, after receiving a complaint from the family.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday appointed a committee to investigate the case after the police finish a separate probe.

The baby, who weighed four kilograms, died after his head emerged from the birth canal with the help of a suction device. The baby's wide shoulders became stuck, and when the delivery team pulled hard on his head, it separated from his body.

The family initially refused an autopsy and quickly buried the remains. The tragedy was reported in yesterday's *Ma'ariv* daily. Health Ministry officials learned of the incident only on Wednesday night, when a *Ma'ariv* reporter called for a reaction.

Ministry spokesman Yoram Malka said that Sieff Hospital had faxed a message to the office of ministry deputy director-general Yitzhak Berlovich, head of the medical division, on Tuesday morning, but Berlovich is abroad.

Sieff Hospital director Dr. Oscar Embon said the delivery team in question was "very experienced." He said the pregnant woman, 36, and the mother of 6, had arrived unannounced at the hospital while in labor.

"She had never registered with us, and we didn't see any ultrasound scan results or complete

medical records except for her small pregnancy pamphlet that she carried. The delivery was going as it should, and the team saw no reason to perform a Caesarean section before the tragedy occurred," he said.

Decapitation during a delivery "shouldn't happen, and we are extremely sorry about it," said Embon, adding that "such a thing occurred in a Tel Aviv hospital about 20 years ago, but reports in the medical literature of such an event are extremely rare."

The parents were told that the baby died in childbirth, Embon said, "but we didn't tell them he was decapitated, as they had enough anguish."

The father said yesterday that they were given the baby's body and told not to open up the sheets. "We did and saw that the doctors had amateurishly sewed the head to his body at the neck all around."

Shekel drops 5.25% vs. dollar

Representative rate set at NIS 4.311

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The shekel plunged 5.25 percent against the dollar yesterday, its steepest one-day decline this decade.

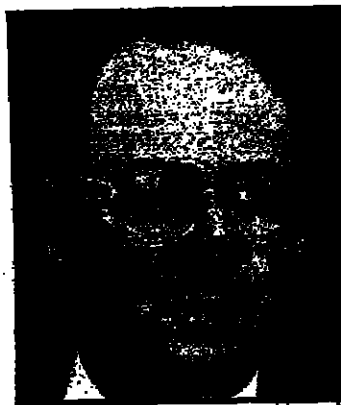
Despite the sharp devaluation, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said he sees no reason for the central bank to intervene in

■ Brazilian economic overhaul, Page 6
■ TASE falls 3.9%, Page 12
■ Dizzying crisis, Page 15

market trading.

The representative rate for the dollar was officially set at a new all-time high of NIS 4.311. The shekel also weakened yesterday against all other major currencies, dropping 6.29% against the Bank of Israel's basket of leading currencies, and 13.8% against the yen.

Traders and economists said yesterday's sharp declines, like



Frenkel — No need to intervene.

those which preceded them this month, stemmed not from the public's orders but from the business sector's thirst for dollars with which to opt out of dollar-denominated loans.

The shekel's decline was accompanied by heavy losses on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, where the TASE 100 index fell 3.72% to 249.19 points, and the benchmark Maof index lost 3.9% to 251.27.

The representative rate for the currency basket was fixed at NIS

4.7918, which is only 11.8% below the higher edge of the trading band. This indicates that the central bank may be forced to intervene in the market in coming days in attempt to calm down trading.

The shekel has so far this month lost 11.37% against the dollar and 13.87% against the basket. Since January 1, the shekel fell 21.92% against the dollar and 26.56% against the basket.

Traders said the main fear is that companies which borrowed foreign-currency linked loans will rush to buy dollars in an attempt to prevent more losses, thus creating a vicious cycle which would further accelerate the shekel's fall.

During the unofficial inter-bank trading which followed yesterday's holiday-shortened business day, the shekel recovered part of its earlier losses and was traded at NIS 4.21 per dollar by mid-afternoon.

The shekel's decline generated speculation that the Bank of Israel will intervene in trading by selling dollars for shekels, so as to end the slide.

See SHEKEL, Page 22

The unbearable lightness of fleeing

As has become customary here in any moment of economic grief, joy, or confusion, the usual chorus of Frenkel's backers lost no time doing its number:

The Bank of Israel governor, said former finance minister Avraham Shohat, must return from Washington at once, since he is the one who allegedly encouraged private borrowers to take dollar-denominated loans, while keeping the shekel under a tight regime of high interest rates.

Others, most notably business consultant Ya'akov Sheinin, said that no other developed economy has experienced the kind of market volatility which we have witnessed in recent days.

That, to be sure, is a lot of nonsense.

Take for instance the currently mightiest of all economies, the US, whose ostensibly mighty dollar has tumbled since mid-August all the way from 147.26 yen to just over 118 yen last night. This is roughly the same proportion by which the shekel has depreciated against the dollar, not since the summer, but since January.

Similar mayhem is detected anywhere and everywhere, from Wall Street, where the Dow Jones has nosedived more than

ANALYSIS

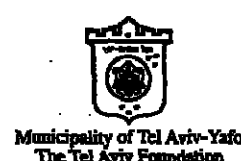
1,700 points since registering 9,337 points in July, to Frankfurt, where the DAX index of leading German shares seems well on its way to being halved since peaking at 6,186 points in July, to Tokyo, where the Nikkei average has plunged under 13,000 points for the first time since 1985.

Set against this backdrop of global tempest one must commend Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman for not

heeding Shohat's and Science Minister Silvan Shalom's demagogic pleas "to return home at once."

When the intifada broke out, Israel's leadership was caught abroad and later was criticized for not returning home immediately. Yet the current crisis is financial, not military, and as such cannot be affected by the arrival of this or that Napoleon who would wave a baton and part the waters threatening to drown a herd of short-sighted borrowers who rushed to take dollar loans offered at rates lower than the shekel's.

See ANALYSIS, Page 22



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Lee Teng-hui, President, Republic of China

THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA CELEBRATES ITS 87TH BIRTHDAY

The first republic in Asia

On October 10, 1911, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his followers rose up in the city of Wuchang to topple the Qing dynasty and established the Republic of China, the first republic in Asia. The central government of the republic moved its seat to Taiwan in 1949 when it lost the civil war to the Chinese communists on the mainland. After almost half a century of hard work, the Republic of China has created a miracle after miracle in Taiwan.

Now Taiwan's sparkle is catching the attention of the international community.

On the eve of celebrating the 87th birthday of the Republic of China, the 21.8 million people on Taiwan would like to share with the people of Israel the accomplishments they have made in the past fifty years and Taiwan's aspirations for the future.

Economic profile

On the economic front, Taiwan has once again impressed the other

members of the Global Village. Its foreign trade reached US \$236.5 billion in 1997, making it the 14th largest trading power in the world; its gross national product (GNP) of \$289 billion is the 18th largest in the world; and its per capita GNP of \$13,233 is the 25th highest. Its foreign exchange reserves of \$84 billion is one of the largest in the world, and it has one of the lowest national debts.

In 1997, Taiwan enterprises were the world's top manufacturers of over 15 products, 10 of which related to information technology. Currently, 60 percent of the world's computer motherboards and 40% of personal computers are manufactured in Taiwan. After surpassing Hong Kong in 1995 and Singapore in 1998, Taiwan's scientific and technological prowess stands second only to Japan in the Asian region.

Political landscape

The political scene of Taiwan has also transformed into something very much in line with its

economic achievements. In the past ten years, under President Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan has emerged as a dynamic multiparty democracy with full political participation for all citizens. Now 85 political parties and 33 political groups are registered. Free elections for public office at all levels are held regularly.

Society has also opened up. People in Taiwan have access to information provided by 350 newspapers, 5,700 magazines, 82 radio stations, 5 broadcast TV networks, and 143 cable television operators.

Democracy creates more transparency between government and the business community. Taiwan's democratic system, legal institutions, and free press all function to monitor relations between government and business and reduce the likelihood of officials funneling capital from government-owned banks to favored borrowers. This is one of the reasons why Taiwan has remained relatively unscathed during the economic crisis that

has ravaged Asia since July of last year.

Relations across Taiwan Strait

Since cross-strait exchanges formally commenced in 1987, the people of Taiwan and the Chinese mainland have taken an average of 1.5 million trips a year to each other's shores. Two-way trade has reached \$24.45 billion in 1997. And since 1991, Taiwan businesses have invested more than \$12.4 billion with 20,000 projects on the mainland. Nearly one-fifth of Taiwan's listed companies have investments there.

Taiwan deserves support

Taiwan is determined to cooperate with the vast majority of the world's nations in striving to establish and uphold the values of democracy and freedom.

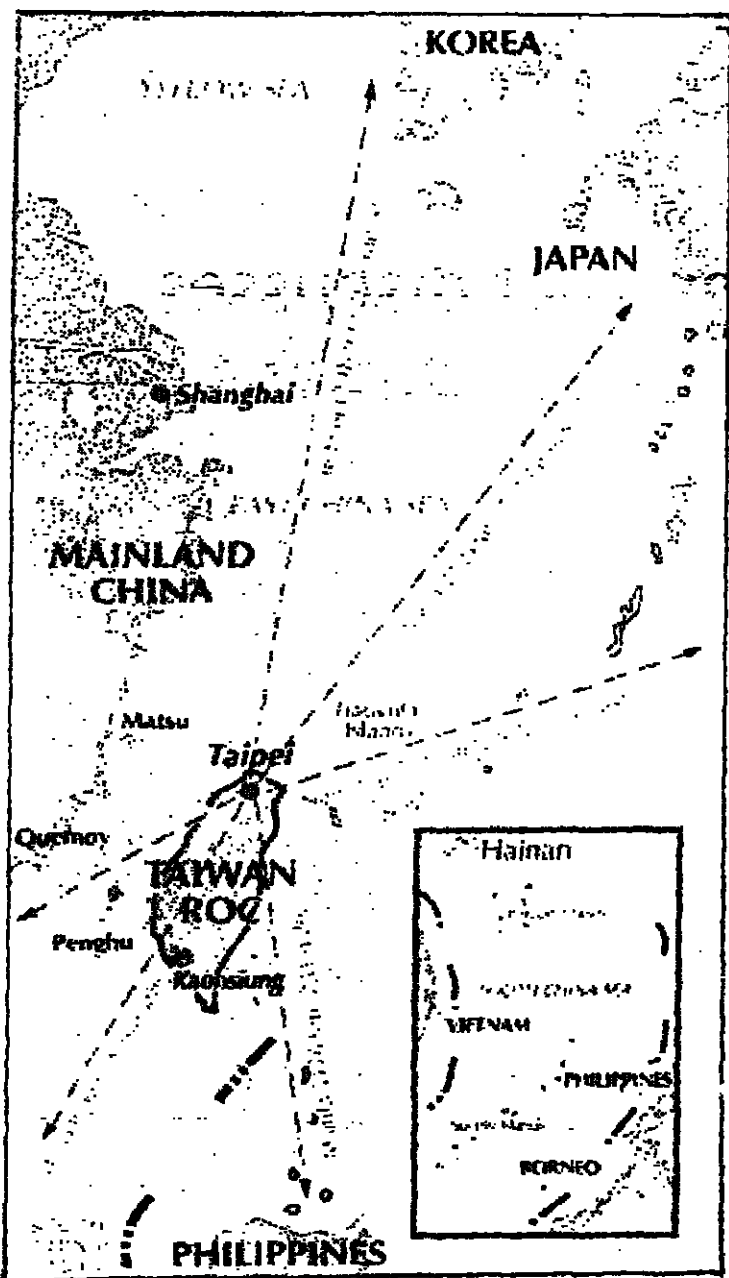
The Republic of China on Taiwan, with an area under its

control little bigger than that of Israel and a land poor in natural resources, has gone through a series of trials over the past fifty years. It still stands tall and unbending. Unremitting hard work, an unquenchable spirit of enterprise, and practical and innovative ways of thinking are keys to its sustained existence and prosperity.

The values and ideals of Israel and the ROC on Taiwan are similar. Both are striving for a better tomorrow in which their future generations will appreciate what their forefathers have done for them. Both are bound to face tough challenges along the path. However, opportunities are there for both if they are willing to walk the extra mile.

On the eve of the Republic of China's national day and on the golden anniversary of the State of Israel, the 21.8 million people of Taiwan would like to convey their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel for a promising and prosperous future.

TODAY'S TAIWAN REPUBLIC OF CHINA



TAIWAN - ISRAEL RELATIONS

A substantial relationship between Taiwan (Republic of China) and Israel was instituted in 1993 when an office was set up in both countries to represent each other's interests in the absence of diplomatic relations. Israel's office in Taiwan is called the Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, while Taiwan's is called the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Tel Aviv.

Since the establishment of the representative office, relations between the two countries have been greatly enhanced. Take trade for example. According to the statistics, two-way trade soared from US \$262.9 million in 1992 to \$553.3m in 1997 (see chart). In the first half of 1998, Israel's imports from Taiwan amounted to \$185.7m, compared to \$180.3m in the same period of 1997.

Israel exports to Taiwan in the first half of 1998 reached \$130m, compared to \$82.6m for the same period last year. And Taiwan is the only Asian economic entity to which Israel's export has registered an increase in the first half of 1998. It is predicted that in the year 2000, two-way trade will reach \$1 billion.

There are now 77 Taiwan companies that are interested in forging joint venture and technological cooperation with Israel. Both countries have agreed to establish a cooperative fund to promote research in sophisticated industrial technology. High-tech cooperation will be the common agenda in the years to come.

Cultural exchanges between the two countries have also picked up momentum in the past few years. The world-famous Cloud Gate Dance Theater's performance at this year's Israel Festival has opened a new horizon in this regard. Now there is talk of sending groups of artists to perform in major cities of both countries in the year 2000.

There are other fields which can be further bolstered between the two countries, such as education, tourism and environmental protection. There are encouraging signs that both countries are interested in taking concrete steps in that direction.

STATISTICAL DATA ON THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Population | 21,833,000 |
| Life expectancy (p) | 74.6 years (1997) |
| Per capita GNP (p) | US \$13,233 (1997) |
| Average national income (p) | \$12,019 (1997) |
| Economic growth rate (p) | 6.81% (1997) |
| Savings rate (p) | 24.63% (1997) |
| Exports | \$122.1 billion (1997) |
| Imports | \$114.4 billion (1997) |
| Foreign exchange reserves | \$83.3 billion |
| Outward investment | \$16.8 billion |
| Outbound travel | 6.2 million trips (1997) |
| Countries with diplomatic ties | 27 |
| Membership in international organizations | 942 |
| National health insurance | 20,603,000 persons |
| Total labor force | 9,504,000 |
| Labor participation rate | 8.02% |
| Unemployment rate | 2.7% |

Note: * All figures are as of June 1998 unless otherwise stated.
* (p) indicates preliminary estimates.

TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND ISRAEL

Unit: US \$ million

| Year | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Taiwan exports | 190.5 | 213.7 | 254.5 | 288.3 | 340.8 | 352.4 |
| Taiwan imports | 72.4 | 84.4 | 91.7 | 110.4 | 133.6 | 200.9 |
| Total | 262.9 | 298.1 | 346.2 | 398.7 | 474.4 | 553.3 |

TAIWAN ON THE INTERNET

General information

Government Information Office: <http://www.gio.gov.tw>

Business and investment information

Ministry of Economic Affairs: <http://www.moea.gov.tw>

Business opportunities

China External Trade Development Council:
<http://www.tptaiwan.org.tw>



Taiwan's democracy takes wing

A HIGHER INTERNATIONAL PROFILE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA IS ONLY NATURAL

Some things can naturally make this world better if given the chance. Take Taiwan and its indigenous butterflies, for example.

Caterpillars work hard at becoming butterflies. Once nature works its magic, they emerge in stunning splendor to take their place in the natural order of things, able to make an indispensable contribution to the ecosystem - if nothing impedes them.

The same could be said of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

It has achieved a double metamorphosis: building a resource-poor and backward society into a resilient globalized economy, and peacefully completing the transition from an authoritarian past to full democracy. The ROC's market economy and political democracy that have been accomplished in just a few decades now foster a synergy of transparency and accountability. These strengths have sustained Taiwan through Asia's recent economic difficulties.

Having achieved these two remarkable transformations, the people of Taiwan naturally want their country to take its place in the international order so it can contribute directly to world prosperity and peace. Admitting their country to the WTO, UN and WHO can only help to make this world a better

TAIWAN'S TODAY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR ASIA'S TOMORROW

As Asia struggles to overcome financial adversity, Taiwan's economic resilience and high-tech expertise provide a valuable guide in spurring renewed regional growth and prosperity.

In a few short years, the Republic of China on Taiwan has become a major player in global markets for cutting-edge technology products. It is first worldwide in the production of notebook computers and such computer accessories as scanners, modems and mouse equipment. And all this has been achieved without undue reliance on short-term international debt.

The key to Taiwan's success is the framework of market freedom within which its entrepreneurs can be highly innovative. Small- and medium-sized businesses comprise most of the ROC's industrial sector, competing intensely for investment capital in Taiwan's domestic money markets. Thus the market mechanism, not government planners, backs the best business ideas in Taiwan.

These strengths have helped offset the worst effects of Asia's financial crisis on Taiwan, making it a strong "node" in the Asia-Pacific regional economic network. Asia retains its promise as a major engine of global economic growth in the 21st century.

Taiwan is helping to keep Asia connected to the



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Thousands march in Jubilee parade

By AMY KLEIN

Festive floats peppered an entourage of thousands who marched yesterday through the streets of Jerusalem in the annual Jubilee March, which this year marked the end of Jubilee year events.

The several hour march began in mid-afternoon by the train station on Derech Hevron, and made its way noisily up to King George Street, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and his opponent Elisha Peleg from the For Jerusalem list, watched from a VIP stand.

"We celebrate the unified capital of Israel, the city of Jerusalem!" Netanyahu declared over the loud-speaker.

There were 12 floats decorated with photographs, representing immigrant communities from such regions and countries as Italy, Morocco, eastern Europe, South America, North Africa and Kurdistan.

Girls in purple flounces twirled their skirts on the South American float; a band wailed to a drumbeat on the Moroccan float. Each float had its own flavor.

"We attempted to make this more than the same parade. These different floats create a unifying atmosphere," Olmert explained.



Members of the Texas contingent of the Jubilee marchers wave at spectators yesterday as they parade past Jerusalem's Old City. (Brim Hendler)

Hundreds of people lined the streets, cheering, clapping and dancing out here and there to gather the candy, toys and flags the marchers threw at them.

Zvi Blubstein, 11, from Jerusalem's Katamon neighborhood, came up with a collection of flags and Tootsie Rolls. He said he liked the parade because it was "grand and beautiful. I loved the

American float." The climax of the parade was on Jaffa Road, where throngs of people converged on the marchers as they made their way past the municipality toward the walls of

the Old City. Many Christians participating in the Feast of Tabernacles annual convention marched in the parade. Some carried signs saying, "Israel, you are not alone!"

Visiting Christians support settler projects

By AMY KLEIN

Christian participants in the International Feast of Tabernacles conference met yesterday with Moleket MK Benny Elon and representatives of Jewish organizations working to settle the Old City, at the Beit Orot yeshiva on the Mount of Olives in east Jerusalem.

The three-hour program included speeches by Haim Silverstein, the executive director of the yeshiva, and Aharon Horowitz, a representative of El-Ad, the organization which buys and settles houses in the City of David.

Some 150 Christians attended the program yesterday. Another 50 attended a trip to the settlements on Tuesday, meeting with leaders of Kiryat Arba, Ma'ona and Gush Etzion.

Many others among the 5,000 Christians participating in the feast, held at the same time as Jews celebrate Succot, will take private tours to the settlements.

"I'm sorry to say, but this is not an Arab land," Elon told the enthusiastic group. "If all the Jews understand this, the Moslems will as well. God has his ways," he said.

Beit Orot's Silverstein said he has traveled around the world, but the "strongest cry" supporting the yeshiva's cause was at a Christian

breakfast in Washington. A header yeshiva which started eight years ago with 20 students, Beit Orot now has over 100 students and is looking to expand, Silverstein said.

"It's important for you to speak up," Silverstein told the group. "You understand the importance of Jerusalem, and with your support we feel that we are not isolated." He distributed contribution envelopes.

El-Ad has settled 20 Jewish families in the City of David since the organization's inception in 1991, Horowitz said. "We want to make the City of David the source of light to the world," Horowitz said. The speakers were preaching to the converted.

"It's important for the fulfillment of the prophecy that Jewish neighborhoods be built in East Jerusalem," said Reverend Helmut Loeffler, from the Philippines. "We want to tell Christians around the world how difficult and important it is for the Jews here, and we should put it in our morning prayers," he added.

"This is what we are praying for - the return of Jews to the land," said Joy Waters from New Zealand. "Through the Jewish people, the Messiah will come back again. Jews will accept the Messiah and all of Israel will be saved."

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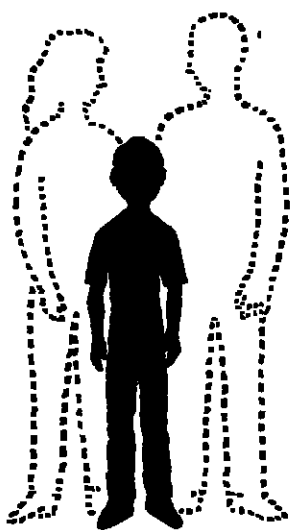
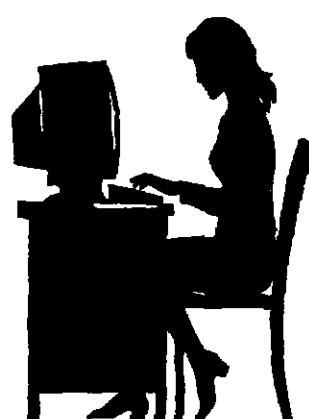
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Dead Tory blues

The talk of glitzy democratic downtown is of third ways, new deals, new centers, new labors, new faces. Spare a passing thought for a dead parrot – not a Norwegian Blue, but the dear old British Tory Blue.

The unfortunate inheritors of the Thatcher-Major legacy have been struggling manfully (and womanfully) against tides of derision this week as they hosted their annual Conservative Party conference in an atmosphere of interminable backstabbing and verbal warfare.

One newspaper really did herald the conference with a full page picture of a blue parrot hanging upside down from a perch – dead, deceased, passed on, no more. It bore the bald pate and vacuous gaze of the present Tory leader.

Above the perch was the caption "Tories Dead – Official!" The Tory leader's name is William Hague, for those vast millions out there who have never heard of him. If it's vague, it must be Hague.

Believe it or not, 30 years have passed since the Monty Python team produced their legendary dead parrot sketch, featuring the Norwegian Blue that had shuffled off its mortal beak.

The handbag

Since then, the equally legendary Margaret Thatcher has appeared, zoomed and squawked through the political firmament, and vanished in a cloud of disintegrating political feathers that will take decades to pick up.

Her limo swooshed into the dozy seaside town of Bournemouth this week and there she was, imperious as an Alice in Wonderland duchess, and just as useless in the real world. An unfortunate journalist asked why people had reported her saying the Tories would also lose the next election to Labor, and he got verbally handbagged. She wagged her finger and shrieked, "do not listen to what people say, pay attention to what I am saying."

This gratuitous rudeness of the aging matron whose politics of greed and grab almost wrecked a decent country is no longer amusing – just pathetic. That something was appropriate for a party whose main debate of the week was over which faction is the most anti-European. (That, by the way, is a "good thing" in Hague's current little-England thinking.)

The conference cameos were wonderful. There sat, just askew of one another and in mutual contempt, two former prime ministers of the great nation of the United Kingdom, from the same party, who have not exchanged a single word for 22 years – Thatcher and Edward Heath. Both were caught by a brilliant photographer in exactly the same pose and body language, looking at their watches at the same instant during some speech, and with the same petulant irritation.

Did too, did not
In a telling reversal of a usual

trend, the Tories' already dismal public opinion ratings actually fell during the conference. The best summary of the party fortunes that Hague could muster was that voters are no longer attacking Tory candidates appearing on their doorsteps, and "now we must win back their confidence."

He seemed to be missing a step – first he must stop voters rolling on their lawns in derisive laughter.

But to be serious for a moment... oh, why bother! The Tories' vicious divisions over Europe exploded almost as soon as the doors opened on a meeting addressed by two former Tory finance ministers, Kenneth Clarke and Lord Lamont. Clarke, standard bearer of party pro-Europeans, accused

the anti (Euro) skeptics of hijacking the party. He accused Lord Lamont and other Euro-haters of "paranoid nonsense."

Lamont snarled back, accusing the pro-Europeans of a hidden agenda to bury Britain in a sinister federal Europe "by stealth." He ended by accusing the other side of "name-calling."

Yah, boo, did not, did too! Clarke said: "At present, Tory members of the European Parliament are laughed at by their European counterparts."

There's an awful lot of laughing going on.

Sir Norman Fowler did manage to attack the Labor government, albeit in a misdirected complaint about Labor's popular anti-drugs campaign. The best Fowler could muster was a swipe at Blair's artistic and pop-music friends.

"The prime minister needs to be cautious about his guest list. Frankly, Mr Blair, you don't invite to No. 10 [Downing Street] people who support drug use."

Now there's a libel suit waiting to happen.

Get behind me
Fowler went on to press the usual right-wing right buttons – social security layabouts, immigrants bleeding the state, and other vague things being done "at the taxpayer's expense."

Pause for emotional cheers from tax payers (Tories) persecuted by tax wasters (pinks, deadbeats and health care users). Other speakers attacked the IRA for foot-dragging over the Irish peace process, conveniently forgetting that before the Clinton-Blair initiative there was no peace process.

And Vague Hague himself? He told the conference no less than 19 times in fake shouts and annoying nasal vowels that "it is time for the party to move on" with "vigor, confidence and together."

Where it must move to is apparently "behind the leadership." (First leave all knives at the entrance.)

An irreverent journalist was heard exiting the hall crooning in a fake New Orleans accent: "Well, ah woke up this mornin'; had dem dead Tory blues..."

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Contact group warns Yugoslavia

BY MARA BELLAMY

LONDON (AP) – British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook emerged from a meeting of the six-nation Contact Group yesterday warning of "grave consequences" if Yugoslavia does not end the "humanitarian crisis" in Kosovo that has claimed hundreds of lives.

If (Yugoslav President Slobodan) Milosevic does not comply with the Security Council resolution he will be responsible for the consequences, and they will be grave," Cook said after a meeting of foreign ministers from the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

He also told Milosevic not to underestimate the "united resolve" to force him to abide by the UN resolution passed last month demanding a halt to the Serb offensive against ethnic Albanians in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

"If he was looking for rescue from any members of contact group, he did not get it tonight," Cook said.

The Contact Group meeting was requested by the Americans in a bid to consolidate support for NATO air strikes. While Britain and the United States strongly back military action against the Serbs, international support is lukewarm. Russia, in particular, has been the most critical, warning that NATO action would lead to further bloodshed in Kosovo.

"Time is running out. The humanitarian situation has not improved. There has to be some action," US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said after the meeting.

While she left open "a chance" for a diplomatic solution, Albright



Ethnic Albanian women rest in a refugee camp near the village of Damanek yesterday.

(Reuters)

said NATO stood ready to take action. She said that Russia's objections would not affect NATO involvement.

However, the statement agreed to by the Contact Group only called on Milosevic to meet the UN resolution, and didn't mention the threat

of military action. In another bow to a diplomatic resolution, Albright also ordered senior US envoy Richard Holbrooke to return to the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade for additional talks with Milosevic.

The Americans and the British

contend that Milosevic has failed to meet UN demands to withdraw troops from Kosovo. Last week, international monitors reported the discovery of further massacres against Albanian civilians. Those discoveries led to strong condemnation and an increase in

international pressure for Milosevic to withdraw his military police from the province.

But despite pressure to declare a ceasefire, Milosevic has refused, although there has been no major fighting in Kosovo during the past week.

Brazil, IMF edge closer to economic agreement

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The International Monetary Fund and Brazil, working flat-out to stem crisis contagion in the global economy, said yesterday they hoped to strike a deal soon on an overhaul of the country's economy.

Brazil, seen as a linchpin in the battle to prevent turmoil in emerging markets from gripping the entire world economy, would work fast with the IMF to complete a package of macroeconomic and other reforms which could get outside funding, they said.

"Discussions will continue in the days ahead, with the aim of reaching an agreement soon on a detailed program of fiscal and other macroeconomic and structural policies, that could be supported financially by the IMF and other members of the international community," they said in a joint statement at the end of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings here.

Economists say if Brazil becomes the next victim of an apparently relentless world economic firestorm, all of Latin America – a key export market for the United States – could tip into recession.

Brazil has been hemorrhaging hundreds of millions of dollars a day for weeks on worry about its big fiscal deficit and the vulnerability of its currency, the real, to speculative attack.

IMF head Michel Camdessus told a news conference at the end of the IMF meetings that the sheer scale of the wider economic turmoil was not something that could be tackled overnight.

"I believe that nothing could have happened more than what has happened. Of course, I know that the expectations were extremely high, but what has not been fully perceived is that we are dealing here with a monumental task."

South Africa's torturers need counseling too

By PAUL HARRIS

CAPE TOWN (AP) – Torturers and bombers who carried out atrocities defending or fighting apartheid need counseling to ensure they do not repeat their crimes, an expert for South Africa's reconciliation body said yesterday.

Addressing local and international experts, Charles Villa-Vicencio, research director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said ignoring the psychological needs of those who carried out human rights abuses could alienate a potentially dangerous sector of society.

"We must give attention to the healing of perpetrators, not just for the sake of perpetrators, but for the sake of the nation as a whole," he said.

The conference, organized by the Medical Research Council, is examining mental health issues raised by the Truth Commission, which is charged with probing crimes committed by all sides in the anti-apartheid struggle.

As the commission prepares to

hand over its final report at the end of the month, South Africans are examining its painful and traumatic exploration of their bloody past.

With the power to grant amnesty to many who tortured, bombed or maimed innocent civilians, the process has at some stage angered people in nearly all walks of life.

Many whites see the panel as favoring the black liberation movements, while many blacks accuse it of being too soft on former state officials, especially top ranking ministers.

However, Villa-Vicencio appealed for tolerance in dealing with all those who have committed crimes, saying that the potential for wrongdoing existed in everyone.

"We all, the entire human race, carry with us the capacity for evil," he said.

Ginn Fourie, a physiotherapist whose daughter was gunned down by black activists in a 1993 attack on a Cape Town bar, said it was necessary to help those whose circumstances compelled them to do wrong.

Sudan accuses US, Israel of aiding Uganda

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) – Sudan's defense minister has accused the United States and Israel of training Ugandan troops, who he said attacked southern Sudan last month.

In a statement to Parliament on Wednesday, Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Suleiman said the Ugandans used "very sophisticated weapons in the attack."

Suleiman also claimed that the United States is operating a war room in Uganda from where, he said, it masterminded the attacks on Sudan's Eastern Equatoria province.

"The Ugandan troops that were engaged in the incursion against Sudanese territories have received advanced training by the United States and Israeli experts," he said. He did not elaborate or offer any evidence to support his statements.

Sudan claims that Ugandan and Eritrean troops supported local rebel groups in southern Sudan during clashes with government forces last month. Uganda and Eritrea deny the allegations.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem mourns the passing of

INGA NIJKERK

former president of the Dutch Friends of the University, and long-time supporter of the University's programs and expresses its sympathy to the family

On the 25th anniversary of their falling in the Yom Kippur War, a memorial service for

DUDI (David) SILBOWITZ ז"ל NEIL FREED ז"ל

will be held at Kibbutz Yizreel's cemetery, on Friday, October 16, 1998, at 11:30 a.m.

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is deeply mourned by her husband, Robert, children Nancy Harvey, Jane Bandler, Liz Goldwin and Seth Goldwin, and grandchildren.

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Dr. HARRY (צבי) DOBERMAN ז"ל

The funeral took place on Wednesday, October 7, 1998.

Shiva commences after the chag at Jabotinsky 10, Jerusalem.

Bea Doberman

The President, Chairman, Honorary Officers, Board and Staff of The United Jewish Israel Appeal are saddened by the passing, in Jerusalem, of

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HELEN KATZ ז"ל

will take place on Friday, October 16, at 12:50 p.m., at Sede Yehoshua (Kfar Samir) Cemetery, Haifa (Sha'ar Oren).
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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Saramago wins Nobel Literature Prize

By JONATHAN LYNN

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Jose Saramago, the grand old man of Portuguese letters, won the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature yesterday.

Saramago, 76 next month, is the first writer in Portuguese to win the world's foremost literary award.

The Swedish Academy said in its commendation that it had awarded the prize to Saramago, "who with parables sustained by imagination, compassion and irony continually enables us once again to apprehend an illusory reality."

Saramago has often been tipped for the prize, worth 7.6 million Swedish crowns (\$985,000) this year, and awarded annually by the Swedish Academy under the terms

of the will of Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896.

Saramago said he thought he might win, but had no idea it would be this year, and the news took him by surprise as he was driving to the airport after leaving the Frankfurt book fair.

An impromptu news conference at the stand of his Portuguese publisher, Caminho, after Saramago returned to the fair, had to be abandoned as a crush of reporters surged forward.

The prize, which will give a massive boost to his sales around the world, would make it easier to get his message across, the writer told Portuguese radio TSF at the fair.

"One takes advantage of the fact of being more visible and audi-



Jose Saramago (AP)

ble... I don't have to add anything to what I have been saying for a long time, I will continue to say these things," he said. "If there is

any reason for me to say other things, I will say them."

Fame and fortune came late to Saramago, a novelist and poet who mixes magical realism with hard-edged political comment.

His works have been translated into more than 25 languages, drawing critical acclaim as well as becoming bestsellers.

Saramago wrote his first novel in 1947, but had to wait until he was 60 for his first major success.

His breakthrough came with *Baltasar and Blimunda*, published in 1982, a blasphemous and humorous story about two lovers trying to escape the Inquisition in 18th century Portugal in a flying machine.

"The insight and wealth of imagination to which it gives expression

is characteristic of Saramago's work as a whole," the academy said.

A card-carrying member of Portugal's unrepentant Communist Party, Saramago was born into a poor rural family in Portugal's southern Alentejo region on November 16, 1922.

One of his major achievements is *The Year of the death of Ricardo Reis*, published in 1984. The surreal novel takes place in 1936 during the rise of fascism in Portugal.

Among other major works is *The Stone Raft*, an allegory on isolationism published in 1986, in which the Iberian peninsula breaks off from Europe and drifts into the Atlantic.

His latest novel, *All the names*, was published in 1997.

Iran promises to help resolve Turkey-Syria dispute

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) - Iran promised yesterday to do its best to help resolve a military dispute between Turkey and Syria, and warned that the escalating crisis could harm the Islamic world.

As part of the Iranian effort, the country's foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, flew to Damascus and met with Syrian President Hafez Assad for 75 minutes yesterday, presidential spokesman Jubran Kourieh said.

Syrian officials said Kharrazi will fly to Turkey today.

Iran is mediating in its capacity as the current head of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, a 55-member group that includes Syria and Turkey.

"OIC can play an important role in solving the present crisis and tension between Damascus and Ankara," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa told reporters. He added that Syria is ready, along with Iran, to find a solution.

The row is over Turkish allegations that Syria is harboring and helping Turkish Kurdish rebels. Syria denies that. On Wednesday, Turkey told Syria to expel the rebels from its territory or "face the consequences."

Talking to reporters after his meeting with Assad, Kharrazi said "expanding the crisis would not be in the interest of the region and the Islamic world." "Iran would exert all efforts to eliminate tension between Damascus and Ankara through diplomatic and peaceful means," he said.

Canada, Holland get Security Council seats

UNITED NATIONS (AP) -

Canada and the Netherlands beat out Greece yesterday in a hotly contested campaign for two of the nonpermanent seats on the Security Council, the most powerful decision-making organ of the UN.

The two countries will represent the regional group of Western Europe and other countries on the 15-member council for the next two years, replacing Portugal and Sweden, whose terms expired.

Each got more than the two-thirds majority required, 117 votes. Canada garnered 131, the

Netherlands 122, and Greece 87.

The council, effectively the UN board of directors, has 10 nonpermanent seats and five permanent ones: the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia.

Every year, five of the nonpermanent seats go up for election by a secret ballot before the 185-member General Assembly.

In addition to the two contested seats, three other went uncontested in yesterday's vote: Malaysia, representing Asia, Namibia for Africa and Argentina representing Latin America.

WORLD

in brief

Iran claims first clash with Afghan Taliban

TEHERAN (Reuters) - Iran said yesterday it inflicted "heavy casualties" in a first armed clash with Afghan Taliban forces after weeks of tension. Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, commander of Revolutionary Guards ground forces, said Taliban militia opened fire with mortars and heavy machine guns on Iranian border posts at 6:30 a.m. and the Guards returned fire. "The Taliban suffered heavy casualties in this clash and three of their border posts were completely destroyed," Jafari told Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The Taliban denied firing on the Iranian posts and said they had shown restraint despite days of artillery fire from the other side.

Yeltsin says he won't resign after protests

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's increasingly isolated President Boris Yeltsin vowed yesterday to serve out his term to 2000 after protesters called for his resignation, but a top legislator called for a referendum on whether he should resign.

More than a million Russians on Wednesday staged protests to demand Yeltsin's resignation and payment of back wages. Addressing newly appointed senior military officers, Yeltsin said the armed forces owed their first loyalty to the president as long as he remained in office.

"That is as long as I am in office - until 2000," he said in televised remarks.

Italian confidence vote to be cliffhanger

ROME (Reuters) - Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi faces a knife-edge confidence vote in the lower house today, after his Communist Refoundation allies snatched away their support and with it his slim majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

He now seems certain of the backing of moderate communists who have counter-rebelled against party activists' decision to pull the plug, but without Refoundation, Prodi can count on 293 votes in the 630-seat chamber, where he would need 316 for a majority. If some 21 moderates of Refoundation's 34 deputies back Prodi as expected, he should have 314 votes. Absentees or abstentions could therefore be crucial.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI S.p.A.

THE PUBLIC IS ENTITLED TO KNOW THE TRUTH

- There is no truth in the allegations that Generali was in breach of its obligations under policies issued to Holocaust victims.
- Information relating to policies issued by Generali Branches in East and Central Europe in the years preceding World War II, is provided to any interested party on request.
- The assertion that Generali was "enriched" by retaining money which belonged to Holocaust victims - is untrue.

Recent publications in the media that Generali has withdrawn from its agreement to create a \$100 million dollar fund for payment to assureds or successors of assureds of Generali, who have perished in the Holocaust, are taken out of context and are therefore distortions.

Generali has joined, on a voluntary basis, the International Commission Process established under the Memorandum of Understanding of September 14, 1998 with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners of the United States.

Immediately after World War II, in 1945, Generali's entire insurance business in Central and East European Countries (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, etc.) was nationalized; from then on the obligations under the policies applied to the respective entities of the governments which took over. Consequently, all its assets in those countries, including assets designated by law to secure its insurance obligations under policies issued by Generali branches in various countries in Central and East Europe, were confiscated. The policies issued by the Generali Branches in those countries were local policies, subject to the laws and regulations of the respective countries. Those State acts frustrated Generali's responsibilities under the policies and deprived Generali of its assets designated for payment to its assureds whether Jews or non-Jews and whether or not they became victims of the Holocaust. The characterization of Generali as discriminating against insureds who were Holocaust victims is thus untrue. The assertion that Generali was enriched by money designated for its insureds who perished in the Holocaust is malicious. Generali was no longer obligated under the policies issued in those countries and could not recognize claims made under such policies, whether the assured was Jewish or non Jewish. Generali did, and does, naturally, pay amounts due under policies issued in countries where its business was not nationalized and confiscated, both to Jews and non Jews.

The allegations that Generali has used "Jewish money" to acquire the shares of Migdal are malicious and not worthy of a serious response. Such public allegations are a cynical and baseless abuse of the Holocaust.

Generali is a company with a strong affinity to the history of the Jewish people and to the State of Israel. In the days of the Fascist and Nazi domination of Trieste Generali was persecuted as a "Jewish Company". The Chairman of the Board of Generali, Antoine Bernheim, is himself a Holocaust survivor whose parents perished in the concentration camps. Generali was a founder of Migdal in 1935. Since the 1950's it has held a 27% stake in the company. In 1997 Generali acquired from Bank Leumi and from the public in Israel approximately an additional 32% of Migdal. The acquisition represented the largest unleveraged foreign investment in a financial company in Israel and did not originate in local Bank financing. By this acquisition Migdal became a full fledged member of an international insurance group - presently, the only company of its kind.

In connection with the acquisition of Migdal, Generali voluntarily established a trust fund in memory of its assureds in East and Central Europe who perished in the Holocaust. The Fund is managed by five Trustees headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Dov Levin.

Generali is the only European insurance company which has, to date, voluntarily computerized the names of assureds to whom policies were issued as far back as 70 years ago and until 1945, as reported by its various branch offices. To the best of its knowledge, so far, Generali is the only company to have established an Information center which provides information to any applicant. The existence of the Information Center was advertised by Generali in the major newspapers in Jewish centers worldwide.

Generali provided Yad Vashem with a list of the names of insureds in East and Central Europe, to aid Yad Vashem in the compilation of the names of Holocaust victims, assisting Yad Vashem in its endeavors.

On August 19, 1998 a Settlement Agreement was entered between Generali and the Council for Plaintiffs in an Action filed against Generali and others in the Federal Court of New York, according to which Generali was to establish a \$100 million dollar fund. The fund was to provide for payment of claims under policies recognized by the Committee, and payments to a memorial fund.

Simultaneously, Generali signed on August 19, 1998 a Letter of Intent with the representatives of the Plaintiffs and representatives of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, under which Generali undertook to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which established a mechanism for resolving and paying Holocaust heirs insurance claims.

In order to ensure consistency in the process of payment under both procedures, it was recognized by all that the procedures under the Settlement Agreement with Plaintiffs in the Class Action and under the International Commission process should be harmonized.

The Board of Directors of Generali approved both Agreements subject to the acceptance and the endorsement of all parties involved and to the establishment of a coordinated process pursuant to the two. Indeed, Generali's duties towards its shareholders and current assureds do not enable the assumption by it of payments of unspecified and unlimited amounts which do not arise from existing obligations.

Unfortunately, no agreement was reached between the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and Plaintiffs Counsel and, accordingly, the Settlement Agreement has not come into effect. Pursuant to the Board resolution, Generali has now become a participant in the International Commission process under the Memorandum of Understanding and will follow the procedures to be established by the International Commission.

Generali reaffirms its commitments to the Jewish people and to the economic welfare of the State of Israel.

These are the facts and the public is entitled that they be brought to its attention.

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Down payments for peace

In the Mideast peace process, there can be a tendency to put the cart before the horse. The euphoria that followed the famous Rabin-Arafat-Clinton handshake on the White House lawn five years ago would have been more befitting the end of the process rather than its beginning.

In Gaza on Wednesday, the Netanyahu-Arafat-Albright lunch may have had a similar cordial feel, but one wonders whether it was premature to break out the cigars.

The lunch came about, according to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, when Netanyahu suggested continuing the three-way session over a meal, and Arafat responded by inviting Netanyahu to his scheduled lunch with Albright. Since the event was on the Gaza side of the Erez crossing, Netanyahu became the first Israeli prime minister to enter territory under Palestinian control.

The importance of such gestures should not be minimized, especially since they have been lacking over the past two years. In addition to the positive atmospherics, agreement was reached on a number of components of the expected package deal, including the Karni industrial park, and committees to address incitement and promote people-to-people exchanges. US officials are also hoping that agreement will be reached on the Dahaniya airport in the coming week. The net result is that the summit slated for October 15 at Wye Plantation in Maryland is not only on schedule, but will begin with some positive momentum. This momentum, combined with President Bill Clinton's commitment to "invest as much time as is needed," are powerful indications that this time the logjam will finally be broken.

There have been, of course, a number of moments in the past year when an agreement seemed imminent. Deadlines and ultimatums have come and gone, leaving nothing but wounded American pride. This time, however, feels different for a number of reasons. First, Netanyahu has conceded the principal Palestinian demand, namely that the scope of the withdrawal be not less than the 13 percent proposed by the United States. Netanyahu must now deliver an effective security cooperation agreement and implementation of other unfilled

Palestinian commitments, but whether agreement is reached on these items depends mainly on whether Arafat wants a deal.

Second, unlike the London talks - in which the American heat lamp shone lopsidedly upon Israel - this time the US is going into the talks without a stopwatch and with a more open mind. The expanded array of issues on the table is formidable: the second and third redeployments, safe passage, security cooperation, the PLO Covenant, and a timetable for final-status talks. Despite the complexity of the negotiations, it should be evident to the US whether one side or the other is not negotiating in earnest, with a desire to reach agreement.

If one side is to be suspected of not wanting a deal at all, it is the Palestinians, not Israel. There are powerful Palestinian voices arguing that any deal with Israel now will weaken the impetus for declaration of Palestinian statehood next May. By this cynical calculation, the worse shape the peace process is in, the more Israel will be blamed, and the better the international climate for a statehood declaration. The main enemy of the peace process, at this point, is the idea that more can be accomplished in an atmosphere of stalemate, collapse, and tension than through peaceful negotiations. After over a year in which the parties have become used to stalemate as the normal state of affairs, both sides need to pay more attention to showing the other the long-term benefits of the negotiating track.

The menu of issues to be resolved in the summit ahead is a daunting one, but perhaps the most important challenge may not even be on the agenda. That challenge is to devise some meaningful, reciprocal, down payment toward each side's overarching goals in a final-status agreement. The interim agreement was supposed to have forced both sides to make such an investment: Israel would hand over territory and self-government to the Palestinians, the Palestinians would accept Israel's legitimacy and combat terrorism. Israel has delivered more of its side of the bargain, but even if both sides were even, it would be time for the next mutual down payment. The challenge of the summit will not just be to avoid collapse, but to devise the next step forward.

Hebron: No peace, no security

MOSHE ARENS

Before the government makes a decision on the second redeployment, it had better take a good look at the outcome of the Hebron Agreement it signed with the Palestinian Authority with great fanfare on January 14, 1997.

That agreement was intended to provide for the safety of the Jewish community in Hebron and set the stage for peaceful coexistence for Jews and Arabs in that ancient city. Almost two years later, even the government that signed the agreement has to admit that it has turned out to be an abject failure.

For the Jewish community of Hebron, there is no security and no peace. There is most certainly no peaceful coexistence for Jews and Arabs in the city of Abraham. There are daily violent incidents that have already taken a deadly toll of Jews and Arabs alike. Rather than a step advancing the peace process, the Hebron Agreement seems to have placed a roadblock in its path.

Presumably the agreement advanced Palestinian aspirations, although they certainly seem to give no indication of being satisfied with the situation. As for the Jews, the agreement must be seen as almost totally neglecting Jewish interests and sentiment in the city. This is no small matter: Hebron

is second only to Jerusalem in its historic and religious significance to the Jewish people. The city of our forefathers, King David's first capital city, and the city in which King Herod built the Tomb of the Patriarchs. It is also the city whose centuries' old Jewish community, reestablished in the Middle Ages, was destroyed by its Arab neighbors.

Like a bone stuck in the throat, the Arab wholesale vegetable market has been left wedged into the middle of the Jewish Quarter, while almost no room has been set aside for the Jewish community to grow. Were our negotiators so blind as not to see the inevitable outcome of the agreement they signed? Was the cabinet fully informed of the

Even the government that signed the Hebron Agreement has to admit that it has turned out to be an abject failure

bors in the pogrom of 1929.

The Israeli negotiators should have realized that this was a one-time opportunity to efface the results of that massacre and to assure the continued existence of the Jewish community in Hebron. It was incumbent on them to provide safety for the men, women, and children living in the Jewish Quarter, Beit Hadassah, Beit Romano, and Tel Rumeida, and also to create conditions so that the Jewish community could grow.

THE SAD truth is that the Hebron Agreement has put the lives of Hebron's Jews in daily jeopardy.

consequences of the agreement before it gave its approval?

The explosive, life-threatening situation in Hebron is not made any easier by the behavior of some of the more extreme members of the Jewish community. Their acts of vandalism against Arab shops and insults hurled at Arab residents and Israeli security forces, all widely covered by the world's media deployed in the city, can only make a bad situation worse, and what's more create the impression that it is they who are the cause of the disturbances.

As frequently happens to people whose minds are dominated by

feelings of injury and frustrations, some of them become their own worst enemies. Had the Jewish community in Hebron been allowed to grow, there would have been an influx of new settlers that, hopefully, would not have belonged to the extreme fringe of the settlement movement. Thus the composition of the Jewish population there would have changed and the chance of developing a modus vivendi between Jews and Arabs might have improved. But with further development of the Jewish community in effect sealed off, the conflict in Hebron seems destined to rise in intensity.

The agreement not only created a dangerous situation, but also closed the avenues for improvement. If the reports of the government's plans for the second redeployment are to be believed, it is the intention to hand parts of the Judean Desert over to the Palestinian Authority. The talk of turning these areas into nature reserves is just so much eyewash. Let there be no mistake about it, this will be the beginning of complete Palestinian control of the Judean Desert. Israeli settlements in the Hebron area, as well as the Gush Etzion, Efrat, and Tekoa will find themselves increasingly exposed as the IDF withdraws from areas in their rear. That is bad news.

The Turkish-Syrian confrontation

ALON LIEL

They are very good at doing so. As the official spokesman, I issued dozens of statements in which we said: "Israel does not publicly reveal the scope and content of its arms deals."

The reality in the Turkish-Israeli case was, of course, different. Every one interested knows which Turkish aircraft and how many are being upgraded by Israel Aircraft

industries and even which banks are financing the deal. Not to mention the famous joint naval exercise that had a similar number of journalists as it did sailors actively participating.

Syria and Egypt found it necessary to respond, each in its own way - Syria by increasing its assistance to the Kurdish PKK and by building an Arab anti-Turkish coalition, and Egypt (now "the mediator") by trying to prove to the world that an Israeli-Turkish military alliance is changing the regional balance of power to a degree that is endangering peace. It is not that the historic sources of Turkish-Syrian tension have faded away. Both countries are still at odds over Euphrates water and the Alexandretta (Hatay) region. But the trigger for latest buildup of tension and troops was increased Syrian support for the Kurdish revolt. Growing Syrian

Israel may be one of the losers if the tensions develop into an actual armed conflict

strengthen the PKK to a direct confrontation with Turkey or Israel. Turkey, however, under its experienced and usually harmonious leadership triangle - Suleyman Demirel, Mesut Yilmaz, and Bulent Ecevit - is not ready to tolerate this indirect Syrian aggression.

HOW ARE things going to develop?

The Turkish army seems convinced that without Syrian interference, it can put an end to the Kurdish revolt. Syria's response to Turkey's demands, especially its demand that PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan be handed over, will be crucial. So will the implications of the mid-September agreement, brokered by the Americans, between rival Kurdish leaders Masoud Barazani and Jalal Talabani. This deal might revive the possibility of an

independent Kurdistan, or at least an autonomous Kurdish area, that both Turkey and Iraq are worried about.

The PKK is no doubt aware that the Turkish-Syrian tension is focussing attention on the Kurdish problem, and will thus try to keep that tension alive.

Egypt, whose "mediation" efforts are much more welcome in Damascus than Ankara, mainly because of its not so hidden agenda, may be another beneficiary - Washington has already welcomed the effort.

Israel may be one of the losers if the tensions develop into an actual armed conflict, though one senior local politician, Uzi Landau, has already said that we can only gain from such an interim Moslem war. A war between Turkey and Syria will endanger Israel's relations with Ankara. Turkey will be disappointed to realize that Israel remains neutral, and the Arab world will back Syria to the extent that Ankara might have second thoughts about its ties with Jerusalem.

While there is little we can do here at this stage, a lesson should be learned: The handling of Israeli-Turkish relations should be transferred from the generals to the diplomats. If this does not happen, sooner or later we will face a similar situation in our relations with Greece and Cyprus, when their conflict with Turkey warms up again.

The writer, a lecturer at Hebrew University, is a former chargé d'affaires in Ankara.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSLIKE RA'ANANA

Sir, - First may I compliment Allison Kaplan Sommer's balanced reporting (October 2).

When both major opposing candidates - Rina Bar-Tal and Yossi Olmert - are unable to do more than take petty potshots at Mayor Bielski, Ra'anana residents should think twice before placing the leadership of our town into the hands of such people.

Yes, Ra'anana is traffic-clogged at peak hours; the only way out of this situation would involve reconstruction of roads running through Ra'anana. Most likely, this would cost vastly more than the construction of "5,000 apartments," which are paid for privately in the long run.

Could Ms. Bar-Tal by any chance point me to a city in the

center of the country where there is no "car pollution" in its main streets? (Dear Rina, if this is your take on quality of life, how about moving up to Neveh Ativ?)

And also find me a town - any town - without a garbage dump! Sorry, these are NOT major issues. Major issues are that Ra'anana is run like a business; as stated by your reporter, our town keeps to a balanced budget. In the 12 years that I have been living here, I have never seen a garbage collection strike, no dirty streets, and only one occurrence of discord between our secular and religious communities.

Of course, the city is getting older - aren't we all for that matter! Plenty of young couples have moved into Ra'anana - especially

the new Lev Hapark and Schwarz/Weizmann areas.

And where are all these shopping malls? Does Dr. Olmert mean the tiny Giron center, with its one floor of shops and two floors of offices? Or maybe the over 17-year-old Golan Center, with its little supermarket and few shops. Does he mean the Park complex with its beautiful design, abundant parking facilities and cinemas. Ah... maybe he means the new Canyon Ra'ananim, which is placed so far away from the town center that even I have yet to find it! I wish Mayor Ze'ev Bielski many more years at the helm of Ra'anana.

Julie Portner
Ra'anana.

THE MAYORAL RACE IN RA'ANANA

Sir, I am writing in response to the article "Ra'anana's magnet for the ambitious" (October 2) about the mayoral candidates in the forthcoming municipal elections in Ra'anana.

With regard to the candidacy of Rina Bar-Tal, there are a number of important points that I feel should have been made in the article.

Bar-Tal has based her election campaign on the slogan "Only Rina Bar-Tal can stop the haredim."

This slogan leads one to believe that there is a problem with hared-

im in Ra'anana, which there clearly is not. Also, one is led to wonder what the reaction would have been from Israel's very fair and balanced media if the National Religious Party were to campaign under the slogan "Only the NRP can stop secularization."

Further, as Bar-Tal is standing as the Labor Party candidate, is it now official Labor policy to "Stop the haredim?"

It appears that Bar-Tal, sensing the need to inject a little aggression into her lackluster campaign

has decided to use a national "sore point" in an attempt to garner votes locally.

As Ze'ev Bielski points out (per the quote in your article), this slogan is pure provocation designed to incite hate among Jews. Where is the "left" screaming incitement, I ask?

I hope the voters in Ra'anana will see this slogan for what it is and vote accordingly.

Danny Hillman
Ra'anana.

MUSICALS IN ENGLISH

Sir, - The article by Michael Aizenstadt, "The Loudest Show on Earth" headline of article? (Time Out, September 25) was very interesting. *Rent* is a musical that appeals to the young since it is loud and brash, just like a rock concert, but there are many wonderful musicals playing in London, including the brilliant *Chicago* and *Showboat*. Aizenstadt is right in saying that we may never get to see anything like

these shows in Israel. However, we are not quite a wasteland. Musical theater in English is alive and well in Israel! The Netanya AACI Music Theater, of which I am the director, has produced *To the Movies* We Go in honor of 100 years of the cinema. *Say It with Music* the Irving Berlin story, and *Oscar*, a revue featuring songs that have won Oscars. Our next production will be *Stop! Look!*

Listen!, a Broadway revue, which opens in Netanya on December 24. While all the performers are amateurs, the standard of our shows does not reflect this. So, until the time comes when we can see the appearance of those wonderful musicals with first rate casts, we, in Netanya, try to fill the void.

Judy Layne
Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On October 9, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that at the meeting of the Arab Executive held in the former Palace Hotel in Jerusalem, attended by 21 out of 48 members, it was decided to declare a general strike all over Palestine for October 13, in protest against the Jewish immigration and the

sale of land. 25 years ago: On October 9, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. David Elazar, confirmed that the tide of war had turned and the IDF was on the offensive on all fronts, attacking across cease-fire lines. At

the UN Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the General Assembly that secure borders saved Israel: "If Israel had performed the folly of going back to the previous armistice lines, then it might have been destroyed by the latest Arab attacks."

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

COLUMNIST Jim Shea of the *Hartford Courant* has made a study, and came up with this:

We need a study.
We need a study of studies.
We need a study of studies to study why we have become a nation of the study, by the study, for the study.

The study is out of control. It has crossed the line from minion to master, from having a purpose to being the purpose, from telling us something we didn't know, to telling us something we don't want to know.

Proof? Here are a few of the studies that have come out this year:

- Wearing athletic supporters lined with polyester, or even polyester impregnated with aluminum, does not raise testicular temperature enough to significantly inhibit sperm production. (Isn't it common knowledge that if you want to

you need an athletic supporter lined with a microwave oven?)

- When it comes to odors, men are most aroused not by \$300-a-drop perfume, but by the aroma of pumpkin pie. Women like the scent of licorice, cucumber and baby powder, but for some reason are turned off by the smell of barbecued meat. (Great. So now what do you do with all that A-I aftershave?)

- Flies are the best fliers on the planet. (We knew it wasn't any of the airlines.)

- Toilet seats are more hygienic than many surfaces in the average home, including chopping boards, kitchen surfaces and sinks. (Maybe so, but there is a definite trade-off in ambience, and I don't care what you serve or how many candles you use.)

- Your chances of being happy are greater if you are married. (Which explains the divorce rate.)

- Circumcision offers no significant health benefits. (But then, is that really the purpose of cosmetic surgery?)

- Stop wasting your time on stupid stuff, and start looking into the kinds of things that the rest of us spend a lot of our free time wondering about.

- For example: What percentage of road kill is suicide? Do women purposely arrange the refrigerator so that men are never, ever able to find anything? Once and for all, is Elvis dead and is Keith Richards alive? What effect does menopause have on global warming?

FIRST THERE was dolphin safe. Now, courtesy of General Mills, we have skunk safe.

Perhaps it does not carry the same emotional cachet of the dolphin's perilous plight against tuna nets, but foraging skunks who poke their

noses into discarded Yoplait yogurt containers have been dying at a small but noticeable rate for years, say animal activists.

So, in an effort to prevent more deaths, which activists estimate to be about 100 American skunks each year, General Mills modified the tapered Yoplait container to make it safer.

And just to be sure, a warning label was affixed to the bottom. No, not for the skunk to read, but the human consumer: "Protect Wildlife, Crush Before Disposal."

However, activists say the changes stink. "A dozen dead skunks is a dozen dead skunks too many," activist Camilla Fox said, complaining that the modifications are too slight. The problem, she explained, is that the container's top rim curves inward and traps the animal when it sticks its nose and head inside.

Power of the mystics

MARK A. HELLER

Extreme right-wing circles have rejected the suspicion that they are responsible for torching Meretz MK Ran Cohen's car on Wednesday. They even hinted that Cohen did it himself to provoke the public against the Right.

This is reminiscent of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamed's suggestion that the injuries sustained by his deposed former deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, while in police custody may have been self-inflicted. The difference is that Mahatir only wants power; the disciples of Kahanism are motivated by a millenarian vision of redemption, and they are ready to make war against anyone, Arab or Jew, who stands in the way.

The disposition of Judea and Samaria is the most emotionally charged issue in Israel's history

This is politics at an altogether different level of consciousness – indeed, it is hardly politics at all – and it is not surprising that it coincides with what appears to be yet another fateful decision about how to deal with the territories captured in the Six Day War, especially the ancestral lands of Judea and Samaria.

The mysticism that infests Israeli politics can be traced directly to the war that began in June 1967 with a sense of extreme peril and ended, a few days later, with a sense of sublime deliverance. From that sudden transition emerged, first, stories of soldiers being guided by pillars of smoke and pillars of fire, and then, a theological/ideological thread that eventually connected the conceptual world of the Greater Land of Israel Movement and the Temple Mount Faithful with that of Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir.

This same thread also de-modernized Israel and increasingly isolated it from the rational world of political Zionism and the Haskala movement from which it sprang. Part of this de-modernization is expressed in the political salience and social prominence of amulets, blessings, and holy men; part of it explains the veneration of stones and bones and other pagan rituals with which mystics express their attachment to the land.

With the possible exception of German reparations in the early 1950s, the disposition of Judea and Samaria is the most emotionally charged issue in Israel's history, and while not all – and perhaps not even most – of the voters in the "national camp" are moved by mystical visions, it is the mystics who provide the ideological backbone and spiritual fervor in the struggle against territorial concessions.

THE FACT that most of them also traditionally supported the Likud or its coalition partners gave rise to the slogan "Only the Likud can," meaning that only the Likud could take the ideological sting out of territorial concessions made for the sake of peace. Indeed, those disappointed at the results of the last election tried to console themselves with the thought that Benjamin Netanyahu is at least potentially able to do what needs to be done without provoking a civil war, something that people like Shimon Peres or Yitzhak Rabin could not hope to do.

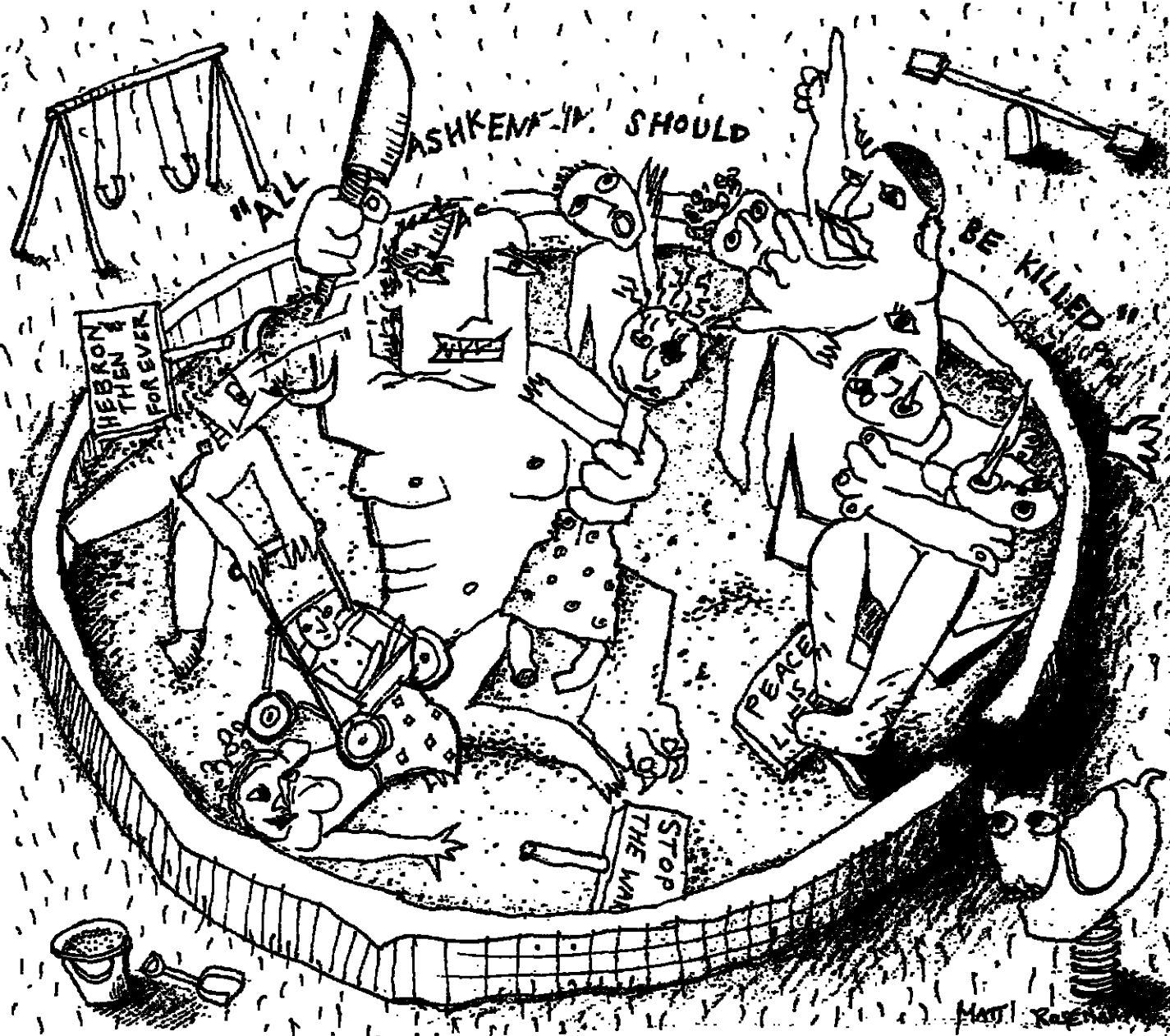
That may well be true, but it does not mean that the true believers will simply give up and that interim and permanent status agreements involving substantial further withdrawals will pass without violence, just because Netanyahu is the one to carry them out.

This week's meeting in Gaza and next week's scheduled summit tend to confirm that Netanyahu's resistance to further withdrawals has been instrumental, rather than principled thus far, and that he knows what needs to be done. This means that he is on a collision course with all those who operate in a different conceptual universe.

And while the torching of Ran Cohen's car may have been directly due to his efforts to eliminate the shrine-like character of Baruch Goldstein's grave, it also serves as a reminder of why the General Security Service provides such a massive security cordon around Netanyahu. After all, it is no secret that the major physical danger to the prime minister does not come from the Left.

But the problem is not just the threat to the prime minister's personal safety, however seriously that must be taken since the murder of Rabin. It is also the continuing threat to the character of Israel as a modern state. The de-modernization of Israel will not stop and the rehabilitation of a rational society will not begin until the debate over the partition of Palestine is finally decided, and that will not happen until those who decide cease to fear the reactions of the mystics.

Those who are immune to rational discourse cannot be persuaded; they have to be confronted. Netanyahu surely understands this reality. It remains to be seen whether he also has the political courage to act on it.



Violence and leadership

NAOMI CHAZAN

Violence has permeated Israel this holiday season. Beyond the familiar, yet always excruciatingly painful reports of more soldiers killed in Lebanon, clashes in Hebron with too many wounded, and increasing warnings of terrorist attacks, too many frightening incidents have been recorded these past two weeks.

A reckless driver killed police officer Ariel Mori and ran away. Avraham Zifani stabbed his estranged wife Miriam and slung her out of her own car; she died in Assaf Harofeh Hospital a few hours later. MK Ran Cohen's car was torched in front of his house; some right-wing extremists don't like his politics. Young women in Tel Aviv are afraid to sleep in their homes; a serial rapist is still at large. In Umm el-Fahm, security forces transformed the classroom into a battleground; a negative benchmark in Arab-Jewish relations in the country was recorded which will not easily be repaired.

In Jerusalem, a dozen white-clad "Mothers and Women for Peace" were brutally attacked in the course of a peaceful, legal demonstration on Yom Kippur Eve. As they proceeded along King George Street carrying banners proclaiming that "Peace is Life," "Stop the War," and "We Have No Children for Superfluous Wars," they encountered a young Orthodox couple wheeling a baby carriage. Suddenly the stroller and its occupant were turned into a weapon to run over one of the participants. When she protested, the man hit her in the face, and subsequently beat a friend who came to her rescue. Another woman who tried to intervene was

cruelly kicked in the stomach and fell to the pavement.

The young family then calmly entered the Great Synagogue. Ruth Rosenfeld, wife of Israel Prize laureate Prof. Yona Rosenfeld, was left in desperate need of hospitalization – her nose was broken, her front teeth chipped, and her face seriously lacerated. Two other women, suffering from pain and shock, required medical assistance. The guard of the Great Synagogue rudely

refused appeals for help, worshippers exiting the building (including Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu) ignored the blood on the sidewalk, and when the ambulance and police arrived, onlookers heckled the victims.

The line between dissension and violence has become much too thin for comfort

To add insult to injury, the women were bombarded with the most heinous diatribes: "You should all be killed, just like [Yitzhak] Rabin." "Go to the gas chambers." "All the Left and the Ashkenazim should be killed." The police finally managed to get the assailant out of the synagogue, only to be attacked themselves, along with a photographer who recorded the scene. Ultimately a modicum of order was restored as people went home to prepare even more somberly for the fast.

THE JERUSALEM incident – which passed virtually unnoticed in the press – compressed in a nutshell

the major elements of discord within our society today: the Right against the Left, secular Jews pitted against the religious, men versus women, young people arrayed against adults, Ashkenazim opposed to Sephardim, activists at odds with onlookers, seemingly privileged protesters against poor passers-by. There were all these ingredients and more: blatant intolerance, unconcealed hatred, overt violence. And all this in Jerusalem, of our existence. The line between dissension and violence has, however, become much too thin for comfort. When it is crossed, what is damaged is Israel's democratic face, its human and Jewish values, itself.

Democratic societies encounter waves of civil discord when they lack clear direction and leaders are palpably weak. By exhibiting forgiveness in the face of outbursts, by refusing to admit that too many so-called aberrations yield an insidious pattern, by merely admonishing without acting, key policy makers in this country not only expose their own substantive and moral bankruptcy; they endanger us all.

Heterogeneity can induce creativity only where civil rights flourish, restraint prevails, and pluralism is wholeheartedly safeguarded by leaders committed to these values and by citizens who insist on such leadership.

Keep the powder dry

GERALD M. STEINBERG

tremendous diplomatic damage. Isolating Israel more than ever. Even in the US, images of Israeli soldiers invading Palestinian cities without good cause can be expected to lead to intense protest and revulsion. Large-scale protests could be expected here as well.

In terms of Israel's security interests, a Palestinian declaration of sovereignty, even if accompanied by widespread international recognition (in contrast to previous such declarations, which had almost no

European states might also view Palestinian military actions or preparations as sufficient provocation to justify support for an Israeli response.)

Neighboring Arab states would have much to lose by becoming involved. Furthermore, any long-term Israeli return to the Palestinian cities would be disastrous. Indeed, for Israel, the main accomplishment of the Oslo process was the negotiated withdrawal from these cities.

In the absence of terrorism and

A Palestinian declaration of sovereignty, even if accompanied by widespread international recognition, will not directly change very much

impact), will not directly change very much. The key issues are control of strategic territory, terrorism, and acquisition of advanced weapons, such as tactical missiles. A flag, passport, and formal seat in the UN will not change these parameters significantly, and will not justify a military move by Israel.

ON THE OTHER hand, if such a declaration is accompanied by large-scale acts of terrorism or attempts by Palestinian forces to grab additional territory, this could trigger a limited military response. In such a case, the onus for the clashes will be on the Palestinians, who will immediately lose any American support. (Many

Palestinian military preparations, it is possible that Arafat's unilateral declaration could pass with little immediate impact. It would clearly mark the end of the Oslo process, but it would not in any way deal with the remaining unsolved issues. Israel might respond unilaterally by annexing a few square kilometers, including large communities adjacent to the pre-1967 cease-fire lines (which were never legal borders) and some areas that are vital to national security. However, after the dust has settled, the two parties would have no choice but to find another avenue to deal with the remaining territorial issues, settlements, links between Gaza and the

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

Shimon's golden pond

Shrewd though they were, the sales promoters who wrapped the withering of Old Age in the sterile cellophane of a Golden Age idyll neglected to consider the case of Shimon Peres.

Not because the ever-hyperactive plotter, avenger, and sore loser is not having the kind of good time his long-retired contemporaries in Miami and Netanya crave, but because his actions negate the very Golden Age concept – the myth by which man in his twilight returns to that embryonic stage of gilded purity, pacifism, and justice in which mankind's history allegedly began.

If anything, like an ancient French wine, Peres not only

the expression – opportunity to jab, sting, pinch, sideswipe, let alone backstab an old Rabin supporter who dared challenge the last, so far, of Peres's repeated prime ministerial bids.

IN THE BEST tradition of provincial politics, Peres's embrace of a small-time defector is as fraught with spite as it is devoid of ideology.

If he were not as determined as King Saul to deny the tragic failure of his leadership, Peres might have played his strange Jerusalem gambit as a reformer's gambit.

It's time, the would-be elder statesman could have suggested, to separate Israel's local and national politics. It's time, he might have added, for Right and

Like a zeide who forgets to stop crawling on the carpet with the grandchildren before the pacemaker starts buzzing feverishly, Peres has now pulled one prank too many

doesn't sour, but even improves with age.

As some of us might have noticed, local elections are in the offing. No, they do not – or at least weren't meant to – involve West Bank pullbacks. Iranian long-range missiles, or even the shekel's erratic volatility. All they're about is those little nuisances like garbage collection, traffic jams, education quality, sewage maintenance, neighborhood parks, or street safety – the kinds of issues which might concern some of us middle-class wage earners, but evidently hardly make it to our average politician's back burner.

Except Shimon, that is.

Fortunately, the universally acclaimed Nobel laureate, rather than thinking only of himself and dedicating the remainder of his days to writing his memoirs, playing golf, and frequenting bingo parlors, found the time to come to Jerusalem and take a well-publicized stand in favor of an obscure back called – what else – Haim Cohen, and against his own elected leader's candidate, Shimon Shetreet.

Unfortunately, in so doing Peres unveiled a fascinating inability to part with that small-time politician deep within him, and a stubborn refusal to assume the mantle of elder statesman.

Those who may have thought that conceiving Oslo has made a vegetarian of the man who had built an aerospace industry, concocted Middle Eastern wars, and master-minded a nuclear program have just learned that old warriors never die.

And so, like a zeide who forgets to stop crawling on the carpet with the grandchildren before the pacemaker starts buzzing feverishly, Peres has now pulled one prank too many, surrounding Jerusalem's ever wrinkled, puzzled, and cracking walls with a cargo as heavy as Ehud Olmert shipped all over his 75-year-old back.

Yes, *la guerre a la guerre* and the famous peace crusader will not miss a golden – excuse

Left to join hands and detach partisan lips from taxpayer nipples. It's time, he should have cried, that envious, politicking and conniving characters – like me – finally abandon public life to the public's devices.

But delivering such a New-Middle-Israel sermon on the mount – not a lot to ask from the author of the New Middle East fantasy – would mean that Peres is no longer Peres.

The man who as director-general of the Defense Ministry in the 1950s ran his own foreign policy behind the back of foreign minister Golda Meir; the man who as deputy defense minister in the 1960s played first fiddle in generating the schism in Mapai; the man who as defense minister in the 1970s ruined Yitzhak Rabin's premiership; and the man who as foreign minister in the 1980s signed an agreement with King Hussein without apprising his own prime minister, is now busy pulling the rug from under Ehud Barak's feet.

Golda was old enough to be Peres's mother; Rabin and Yitzhak Shamir were old enough to be his brothers; and Barak is young enough to be his son. Everything, in other words, changes except *saba* Shimon's eternal pranks.

The man who was reared as a powerful bureaucrat in the shadows of David Ben-Gurion's charisma knows all about roaming, meandering, and waiting through the corridors of power, but very little about feeling the pulse of the voters who lurk beyond them. And so, ever thirsty for popularity and faced with those who do know how to win at the ballot box, he gets so confused that he reacts irrationally, here betraying his own colleague and there embracing an arch-nemesis.

Wouldn't it be better to once and for all stop meddling, under-cutting, sideswiping, and quarreling with practically the entire political system, focus instead on doing good at the Peres Peace Center, and, excuse the expression, retire?

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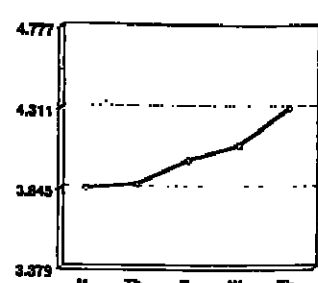
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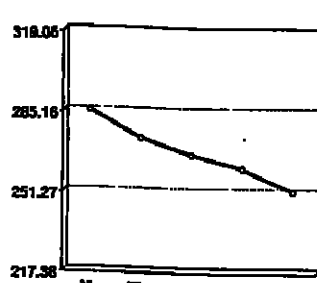
MARKETS

in brief

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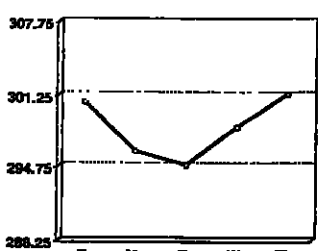


MAOF INDEX



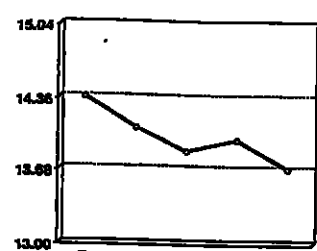
GOLD

\$ per ounce

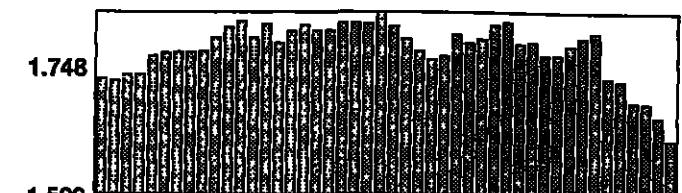


OIL

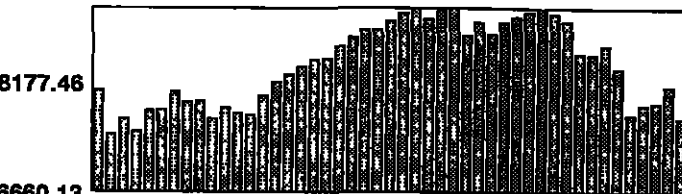
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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BITS & BYTES

Scitex to supply \$20m. systems to French

Scitex has won a contract to supply the French national social security system's health branch with high speed printing systems. The deal is expected to be worth more than \$20 million over a five-year period.

The tender was offered by the health system, CNMATS, to reorganize the communications process for the millions of French subscribers who are covered by the health insurance plan.

Tad. Telecom gets \$15m. order from Scotland

Tadiran Telecommunication's subsidiary InnoWave has received a \$15 million order for its wireless local loop access solution from Atlantic Telecom of Scotland.

The order is for the MultiGain WLL system, which is to be installed in Atlantic Telecom's coverage area in Scotland's main cities including Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh.

Treasury Director-General Zilberfarb:

Shekel can be pegged to euro

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

A partial peg of the shekel to the euro "wouldn't be a bad idea," Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb said this week at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

Speaking to the Dow Jones business news agency, Zilberfarb said the shekel's recent decline was quite predictable considering the nervousness of world markets. However, the shekel's sharp plunge can also be partly attributed to reduced activity in Israel's currency markets during Succot, he said.

According to Zilberfarb the shekel's devaluation this week will benefit local exporters once the market stabilizes.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday that the government's policy is appropriate for creating stable market conditions, and this in turn "is a clear, positive sign to the international business commu-

ty to invest in Israel."

Neeman's comments were made as dozens of leading businesspeople begin arriving in Jerusalem for next week's Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit.

Summit organizers held an urgent meeting yesterday after it became clear that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will all be in the United States while the event takes place, for the three-way peace summit. The three were to be keynote speakers for the conference.

Conference organizer and Bezeg Chairman Izzy Tapoohi yesterday confirmed the conference will be running as planned with one change: Netanyahu is to present special awards to visiting CEOs on Wednesday night before he leaves for the US at 1 a.m. on Thursday morning.

Sharon and Sharansky are to fly out the following day.

Neeman will be chairing the opening session of the conference and is scheduled to hold meetings with several of the world's top CEOs, during the course of the three-day event, among them from Boeing, Lockheed-Martin, Readymix, Citic and Cable and Wireless.

Tapoohi said that some 1,200 delegates are expected to attend the event. Some 400-450 are arriving from overseas.

Meanwhile, the question-mark hanging over the special Jubilee award to Italy's largest insurer Assicurazioni Generali for its contribution to the Israeli economy was still unanswered yesterday.

On Wednesday night, Netanyahu's Adviser on Diaspora Affairs Bobby Brown called for the prize not to be presented until the company publishes details of Jewish policyholders whose claims were not met after they were killed in the Holocaust.

Generali maintains it has no legal or moral obligation to pay out on the majori-

ty of policies which were taken out in eastern Europe, maintaining that the company's assets were seized from the late 1940s onwards by communist regimes.

At least 100,000 policies were taken out with the company by Jews who then died in the war, according to Yad Vashem.

Yesterday Dan Propper, the chairman of the committee distributing the Jubilee prizes to dozens of businesspeople, said he had not seen any request from Brown. As far as he is concerned, Generali met the criteria for receiving an award, Propper added. The company spent some \$330 million in purchasing Israel's largest insurer Migdal.

"The panel has very clear criteria and according to those criteria at the time Generali was an award winner," said Propper. "There is no violation of the criteria that we had."

Tapoohi said he is confident a solution will be reached by which Generali could receive an award on time.



Restoring the Silk Road

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze (right) and Azerbaijani President Gedar Aliev share a joke Wednesday at a ceremony opening a new bridge across the Khrami River between their countries. Built in 14 months with financial assistance from the EU, the bridge is part of a project to revive the historic Silk Road. (AP)

Bank of England cuts rates 0.25%

By MIKE PEACOCK

LONDON (Reuters) — The Bank of England cut official British interest rates yesterday by a quarter-point to 7.25 percent, the latest in a string of international rate cuts triggered by turmoil in global financial markets.

The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee said it had reduced borrowing costs, for the first time since June 1996, because the international environment had deteriorated, hitting business and consumer confidence at home.

That meant the chances of inflation falling below the government's 2.5% target rate had increased, it said, making an interest rate cut "appropriate" despite signs of spiralling wages and a recent fall in sterling.

Underlying inflation, which excludes home loan costs, was

bang on target in August.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, on a tour of China, welcomed the move. "If we have really turned the corner at 7.5% interest rates then that would be a tremendous achievement," Blair said, harking back to the 15% peak in rates in the early 1990s.

The cut, which followed recent reductions in Japan, the United States, Canada and Spain, was expected, not least because British finance minister Gordon Brown slashed his economic growth forecasts earlier this week, pinning the blame on a global economic downturn.

With the financial crisis showing no sign of abating, the wave of monetary easing could ripple further round Europe as countries ditching their currencies for the euro in January move toward common interest rate levels.

A dangerous gamble in Jericho

COMMENT

By ROBERT DANIEL

With all the hoopla surrounding the new casino in Jericho, one would think it's the end of the Palestinian Authority's problems. The rationale is it's a job creator, a symbol of European-Palestinian cooperation managed by Casinos Austria, the world's largest casino chain — and the kind of development that will help the PA's state-in-the-making thrive.

Yet the casino is fraught with dangerous social and political implications, and raises serious questions about the PA's social and economic priorities.

This little pleasure palace, catering to the few in the Middle East who have the money and the proper passports, could bury any

remaining hope of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. The opportunity for a terror attack, security measures notwithstanding, is substantial and tempting.

But the casino — and the adjacent tourist and business resort to be built in the next couple of years — also has the potential to help the Palestinian Authority begin building the credibility it so desperately needs.

First, three questions: Who are the customers? For now, Israeli Jews, a fistful of tourists, and those Palestinians lucky enough to be citizens of other countries. Palestinians from New Palestine need not apply for admission. Their government has barred them from the casino because religious Moslems object to gambling.

Second, who works there? Right now, mainly the Palestinians lucky enough to get some of the few hundred jobs the casino offers. The casino's backers expect the completed \$150 million project — including the casino, hotels, golf and tennis facilities and conference centers — to directly and indirectly provide 5,000 high-income positions for local residents.

Finally, who objects? The first answer is the religious Moslems, whose objection to gambling interestingly puts them on the same footing as Israel's Orthodox rabbis, who are the main reason

that Israel prohibits most games of chance.

But the casino's bigger opponents are ordinary Palestinians who feel aggrieved, rightfully, by the sight of a bunch of relatively wealthy outsiders, mostly Israelis for now, who are trying to get wealthier in the shadow of dreadful Arab poverty.

The casino — which carries the unfortunately apt name "Oasis" — gives Chairman Yasser Arafat and his nascent government an opportunity to crow to the global media about the PA's efforts to attract major development projects.

In fact what it does is give the PA an excuse not to focus on the portions of Gaza that still don't have functioning sewer lines. It deflects attention from the fact that the PA lets people continue to live in squalid refugee camps largely as a political statement that "this is how the Israelis left us."

And it sends the message to the people living in those camps that their most basic needs come second to ensuring that a bunch of spoiled Israelis can take a quick vacation without traveling abroad. Jealousy about wealth and intentional ignorance of people's needs

are likely to make a large number of already angry Palestinians even angrier.

The PA can say that projects like the casino (which declines to provide revenue estimates) will generate the money necessary for fighting poverty and developing the Palestinian society. But the PA has done little to make governments worldwide believe that it will use that revenue wisely.

Most recently, Chairman Arafat reshuffled his cabinet while leaving in place a number of ministers who stand accused of corruption.

That's not exactly a confidence-building measure. And several governments are probably still waiting for an accounting of where the PA spent money that they donated. If those governments are waiting for that accounting, so are the Palestinian people, for whose benefit that money was designated.

If it wants to build some credibility, the PA must immediately begin acting like, well, a government. Rather than build casinos it might dismantle the refugee camps and resettle the inhabitants

in proper housing. It must urge private interests to build projects like hospitals and clinics. It must use its properly raised taxes to build roads and infrastructure, and it must give its people an honest look at what they got for their money.

By building infrastructure and delivering services the PA would steal thunder from Hamas, which shrewdly wins over average Palestinians by providing basic services that normally would be the province of honest government.

The casino is a bad idea, but now that it's fully built and operating, it would be right to ensure that its revenues go to the immediate benefit of the Palestinian population — complete with open books, to show how much money went to build what infrastructure.

A good deal of the resentment that the casino engenders will dissipate if the Palestinians see tangible results instead of just bright flashing lights.

The writer is editor of Link magazine, which focuses on Middle East finance and commerce.

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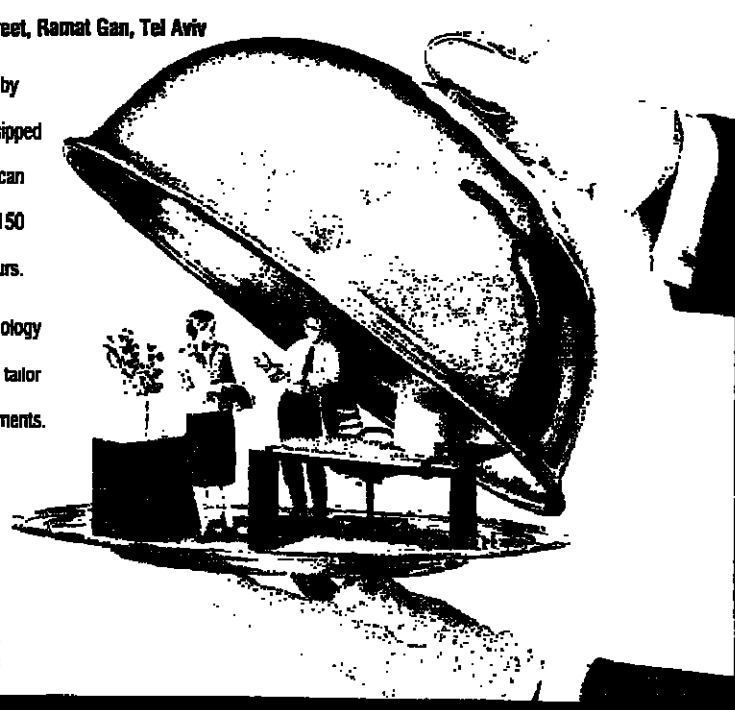
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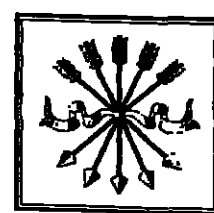
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|---------------|-------|--------|
| Bayer | 55.5 | -0.5 |
| Daimler-Benz | 208.5 | -11.7 |
| Lufthansa | 78.5 | -2.1 |
| Mannesmann | 21.5 | |
| Messerschmitt | 2.5 | -1.8 |
| Volkswagen | 97 | -7 |

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (Data BOCF-98)

| FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES | | |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| | Last | Change |
| Sfr (Swiss) (1) | 4.558 | 0 |
| U.S. Dollar (1) | 4.056 | 0 |
| British Pound (1) | 2.800 | 0 |
| Canadian Dollar (1) | 0.703 | 0 |
| French Franc (1) | 6.731 | 0 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 3.26 | 0 |
| Swiss Franc (1) | 4.074 | 0 |
| Canadian Dollar (1) | 0.703 | 0 |
| Italian Lira (1000) | 2.545 | 0 |
| Jordanian Dinar (1) | 5.749 | 0 |

| NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Last | Change |
| DJ Industrials | 7739.91 | -9.78 |
| DJ Transport | 3513.5 | -116.29 |
| DJ Average | 2455.58 | +1.38 |
| DJ Comp. | 2463.58 | -25.07 |
| NYSE Index | 580.49 | -11.17 |
| Nyse Comp. | 582.90 | -19.21 |
| NYSE Comp | 477.2 | -7.48 |
| S&P 500 | 467.4 | -4.59 |
| S&P 500 Index | 468.47 | -11.21 |
| Israel Index | 161.73 | -12.14 |

| OTHER MARKET INDEXES | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Last | Change |
| FTSE 100 | 4688.9 | -130 |
| Tokyo Nikkei | 7950.2 | -79.66 |
| Hong Kong Hang Seng Index | 595.2 | +15.14 |
| Taiwan Stock Exchange | 7059.5 | +194.8 |
| London Stock Exchange | 2525.5 | -16.16 |
| Panama Canal | 2599.87 | -157.72 |
| DAX | 4907.85 | -88.81 |
| Nikkei 225 | 7950.2 | -10.88 |
| Sensex Market Index | 2593.7 | -168.4 |
| Sydney | 692.3 | -36.5 |
| Milan | 1109.8 | +12.6 |

| DOLLAR CURRENCY (US) | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| | Last | Change |
| Pound: spot | 1.7106 | -0.0108 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.7092 | -0.0059 |
| Australian: spot | 0.8927 | +0.0114 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 0.8913 | +0.0026 |
| Yen: spot | 1.5189 | +0.0006 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5184 | +0.0024 |
| Franc: spot | 119.23 | -2.4 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 119.462 | -7.55-005 |
| Australian: spot | 0.8927 | +0.0059 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 0.8908 | -0.0063 |
| Yen: spot | 1.5189 | +0.0006 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5178 | +0.0052 |
| Franc: spot | 5.4535 | -0.0061 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 5.4535 | -0.0061 |
| Nip: spot | 1.586 | +0.0232 |
| Aus/Nip: spot | 1.586 | +0.0232 |
| ECU: spot | 1.5290 | -0.0122 |

| US COMMODITIES | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| | Last | Change |
| Gold: spot | 325.2 | +0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 325.2 | +0.05 |
| Oil: spot | 20.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 20.5 | -0.05 |
| Wheat: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Corn: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Soybean: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Live Cattle: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Pork: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Lean Hogs: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Feeder Cattle: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Butter: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Cheddar Cheese: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Whole Milk: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Condensed Milk: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Ice Cream: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Soft Coal: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Bituminous Coal: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Anthracite Coal: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Crude Oil: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Heating Oil: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Gasoline: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Propane: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Aluminum: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Copper: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Nickel: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Zinc: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Lead: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Silver: spot | 1.5 | -0.05 |
| Dec./future (CME) | 1. | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|-------|
| Coffee (Dec) | 79.25 | -4.1 |
| Wholesale (Dec) | 117.45 | -3.5 |
| Soybean (Nov CBOT) | 540.5 | -7 |
| Dec (Nov CBOT) | 540.5 | -7 |
| Orange juice (Nov/CES) | 160.85 | -1.05 |
| Dec (Nov/CES) | 160.85 | -1.05 |
| Bonds: Dec/Future | 131.125 | 0.8 |
| S and P Dec/Future | 270.5 | -8.5 |

| LONDON COMMODITIES | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|--|
| | Last | Change | |
| Coffee (Dec) | 79.25 | -7 | |
| Dec (Nov LCE) | 765 | +78 | |
| Sugar (Dec) | 216 | -1 | |
| Short crude oil (Dec/IFP) | 33.49 | | |

| SPOT MARKET METALS (US) | | | |
|-------------------------|------|--------|--|
| | Last | Change | |
| Silver: spot | 6 | -0.14 | |

| NEW YORK METAL FUTURES | | | |
|------------------------|------|--------|--|
| | Last | Change | |
| Gold (Dec) | 302 | -0.9 | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Palladium (Dec) | 282.75 | -3.55 |
| High-grade copper (Dec) | 0.723 | -0.008 |

LONDON METAL FIXES

| | Last | Change |
|-------------|------|--------|
| Gold AM fix | | |
| Gold PM fix | | |
| Silver fix | 522 | +8 |

Months in parentheses signals contract exp. date
 (Spot market listings are from approximately
 23:30 local time. All others are closing quotes.)
 SOURCE: S&P COMMODITY INDEX OCT. 1992

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|-----|----------|-----------|
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| 0 | 5.540 | 5.820 |
| 0 | 2.280 | 2.700 |
| 0 | 0.190 | 0.560 |

| Rate | Banknotes | Rep. |
|------|-----------|--------|
| Buy | Sell | Rate** |
| 9516 | — | 4.7918 |
| 4554 | 4.30 | 4.52 |
| 7907 | 2.68 | 2.93 |
| 6708 | 7.41 | 7.78 |
| 6324 | 0.80 | 0.85 |
| 9369 | 3.71 | 3.90 |
| 4751 | 2.39 | 2.51 |
| 4761 | 3.35 | 3.53 |
| 5770 | 0.55 | 0.59 |
| 6117 | 0.58 | 0.63 |
| 7358 | 0.71 | 0.75 |
| 9165 | 0.88 | 0.93 |
| 9418 | 2.84 | 2.99 |
| 7712 | 2.68 | 2.81 |
| 7756 | 0.69 | 0.78 |
| 3526 | 1.30 | 1.39 |
| 9965 | 3.83 | 4.30 |
| 8217 | 2.72 | 2.87 |
| 2619 | 6.05 | 6.50 |
| 5017 | — | 1.25 |
| 9705 | 5.74 | 7.07 |
| 2827 | 3.17 | 3.33 |

Precious metals

"The longer the strike lasts, the more impact it will have on prices," said Trevor Pitts, head of platinum and palladium trading at Standard Bank in London. "There's no shortage of supply — these things take time to filter



Gold \$301.25 ▼ 0.3%

Energy

Crude oil fell as traders reacted to reports showing that US inventories remain plentiful following concern in recent days that supplies may have been affected by bad weather in the Gulf of Mexico last month.

"For crude its the down pressure from the figures, and I can see it closer to \$13 than \$14 a barrel over the next week," said Steven Felham, a broker at Credit Lyonnais Rouse in London.

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before the
President
dinner
the night
April
for the
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ear Ramallah, last night laid the cornerstone for a new neighborhood named Mishkenot Yehudah after late NRP education minister Zevulun Hammer. Some 140 units are to be built here.

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NEWSinFOCUS

13

The Wyes and wherefores of peace

The Big Question:
Will the second redeployment be wrapped up at next week's summit in Maryland?
Danna Harman examines the pressures on each of the players and comes up with some scenarios

After barely speaking to each other for a year, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat were sharing kosher humous in Gaza and handing each other Cuban cigars as if they had been meeting like this for years.

If all goes according to plan they will meet again next week on the banks of the Wye River in Maryland for a weekend of intensive negotiations and scenic walks.

The big question is, then what? Will it all lead to a second redeployment?

Certain minor issues – such as the opening of an industrial park, setting up an anti-incitement committee and restarting people-to-people initiatives – have already been agreed upon. In the words of US State Department spokesman James Rubin, they have been nailed down.

All the rest of the major "nails" – among them security assurances, the abrogation of parts of the Palestinian Covenant, the question of the exact breakdown of the second redeployment and, down the line, the third pullback – are still out on the negotiating floor, with the pointed side up.

The Americans would like these remaining contentious issues to be safely picked up, turned around and nailed in as much as possible before next week's summit. Then, President Clinton will take the floor, help hammer in the outstanding matters, stand proudly for the applause and leave the stage ready for the next act – the "final status" scene.

THE American interest in this scenario is obvious to all. With impeachment procedures and Congressional elections racing each other around the corner, Clinton is in dire need of success on a fresh front.

It seems as if Middle East peace – a topic familiar to the American people, involving several colorful players and generally allowing for dramatic segues about the dangers of world terrorism – has been chosen as the administration's main decoy.

Arafat and Netanyahu, on their part, each have reason to move forward at this point as well. To begin with, there are America-related reasons. It is hard to refuse when the president of the US – no matter what his motives are – invites you for a weekend in the country.

This is especially true for the leaders in question, each of whom has had his moment as persona non grata in Washington, and both of whom have healthy egos. It will be equally hard, once they get to America, to withstand the pressure-cooker atmosphere of a weekend in a small room with Clinton, looking out the window at the 500 members of the press corps camped on the lawn.

Then, there are the world image-



US Secretary of State Albright prodding Netanyahu, left, and Arafat toward 'substantial progress' at a guest house in the Gaza Strip this week.

(Brian Hendler)

related reasons. Once you accept such an invitation, with all the hype and spin and attention surrounding it, you don't want to be the one blamed for its failure, and you certainly don't want to allow the other side to get up on the world stage and take sole credit for showing goodwill.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there are also reasons of internal Palestinian and Israeli considerations.

NETANYAHU appears to have been playing his cards perfectly, landing himself in exactly the position he wants.

After spending what seemed like an eternity wincing about the percentages of redeployment being suggested by the Americans, and finally agreeing to the proposal – as some observers believe he had always intended to – Netanyahu has reaped an enormous amount of credit for his "concessions" in the process.

He is now trading in this credit for the right to make demands.

Some analysts – the skeptics – say Netanyahu is not serious about actually signing the agreement – although such a scenario seems doubtful.

"He can go to Washington, make his demands, hear them rejected and come home a strong principled war hero," said one critic, who was involved in negotiating the Oslo Accords.

Third Way MK Alex Lubotzky has likened Netanyahu to a man who has walked into a fish market. He has bargained and bargained, and brought the price way down. Now what would he get if he just walked out?

Elections are scheduled for November 2000. If Netanyahu

can reach that moment and be able to say, "I was able to fulfill our obligations to the Oslo agreements with the least possible harm done to Israel," he would likely win reelection.

He would come off as the reluctant but effective peace man to some (centrists), the tough negotiator to many (his natural right-wing supporters) and still the only option for others (those on the far Right).

There are a number of analysts – the cynics – who predict that Netanyahu will sign an agreement, but will find some reason not to fulfill it. This is an altogether more likely possibility, they say.

"I expect them [the Palestinians] not to do anything they are supposed to do and with that we will be released from our commitments. We are not going to be tricked," said a top official in the Prime Minister's Office.

The agreements on the second redeployment, once signed, are meant to be carried out over the course of three months, ending on February 1, 1999. According to the timetable, Israel is to transfer 2 percent of Area C to Area B, while the Palestinians – almost simultaneously – are expected to arrest dozens of Hamas members and confiscate several thousand Kalachnikovs. Then Israel would be expected to withdraw from another, say, 1% of Area C, while the Palestinians muffle a few hundred outspoken imams, and so on.

THE set-up seems ripe for failure, some observers say. Netanyahu would certainly be faced with harsh criticism and a variety of political threats from far right-wingers once he begins giving back parts of the Land of Israel. But, insofar as the land to be

handed over will be carefully chosen so as not to contain any settlements, and since the far right-wingers are not a majority, he is likely to survive the criticism.

Arafat, on the other hand, has to fight against a large number of his own people. It is clear to all involved that he will have a harder time keeping his side of the bargain. Arafat himself knows this, and it is the main reason for his battle over decreasing the demands

that any efforts that Arafat does make to contain terrorism will not be enough and that Israel will again find itself under terrorist attack.

Netanyahu, if he wants (and probably without looking too far) would likely be able to find any number of pretexts to accuse the Palestinians of not fulfilling their part of the agreement vis-a-vis fighting terrorism. He could respond by halting implementation of the withdrawals.

According to this scenario, despite the lack of an Israeli pull-back, world sympathy would swing to the side of the Israelis, who would be said to have done their best. And if the Palestinians actually declare statehood a few months later, they will have lost some international support for the move.

A third group of analysts predict that Netanyahu would not only sign a redeployment agreement, but also fulfill it. What he won't do, they say, is move the process any further along.

"This is the end of the game for Netanyahu. He feels that with the second redeployment he will have finished his work and his 'achievement' will stand for years to come," one Middle East analyst said.

It is easily forgotten, what with all the world attention and front-page headlines, that the second redeployment is not important in and of itself.

What is important is the final-status agreement, which would aim to resolve such explosive issues such as the future of the settlements and Jerusalem.

Netanyahu, who insists he is ready to begin the final-status talks tomorrow, knows that these negotiations are likely to be lethal. If

Palestinians and Israelis spend 19 months negotiating how to move from Gaza to Jericho, the chances that they will be able to speedily decide about matters such as the return of an enormous number of Palestinian refugees – is slim, to say the least.

Netanyahu knows that the second redeployment – if it comes about – is likely to remain a status quo for a long time to come.

Discussions on the final status could begin but would appear likely to go on for years. In the meantime, Netanyahu may have again staved off the prospect of facing overwhelming international support for Palestinian statehood.

ARAFAT, for his part, may not have been playing his cards as wisely as Netanyahu. At the end of the interim period, which was supposed to end last March, the Palestinians were meant to be in control of all of the West Bank except for military locations and settlements.

Six months past the deadline, the Palestinians are only in partial control of only 27% of the land. In the best of scenarios, they will be in control of some 42% of the West Bank by the end of the third redeployment.

The Palestinians – who were quick to accept the US proposal for a 13% withdrawal, even though this had been way below their expectations – feel let down. Perhaps they seized the opportunity, never believing that Netanyahu would accept a two-digit redeployment formula.

Perhaps also they envisioned a

successful US pressure campaign against Netanyahu which would have culminated with them getting a bit less than they had wanted percentage-wise, but which held the promise of them being crowned as the "flexible and helpful" players.

Such credit could have been traded in for general sympathy for such further decisions as declaring statehood.

The situation did not work out that way, but having stepped into the game and having shown his cards, Arafat cannot really afford to backtrack in any elegant manner at this point.

"There were some miscalculations," one Palestinian official said. In addition, and imagining that the process moves into final-status negotiations but no further, Arafat knows that he is better off obtaining as much territory as he can get now.

This is one of the reasons the Palestinians want to put off the start of the final-status talks. They want to complete discussions on, and implementation of, the second and third redeployments before getting bogged down in more talks where withdrawals already agreed upon could become material for barter about new questions.

There are still some difficult outstanding issues to be resolved at Wye Plantation and it is conceivable that everyone could go home with nothing. It is important, however, to recognize the internal political pressures working on each of the players – which do seem to point the parties toward signing a deal.

It will be hard for Netanyahu and Arafat to withstand the pressure-cooker atmosphere of a weekend in a small room with Clinton

in the security working paper.

Once Arafat were to accept such demands, which he basically has no choice but to do for a deal to be clinched, he would have to confiscate weapons, fire policemen, drag hundreds of people into jail and keep them there, raid dozens of arms caches, strip Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders of their authority.

Any of these actions could lead to a Palestinian civil war. Therefore he may find many of them too difficult to carry out from a political standpoint, Palestinian observers say.

There is also always a chance

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(Left) Ofer Elmakayis, of Libyan stock, gets along okay with Varda Hayat from the Ukraine, whose hair he dresses; (above) Dmitri Vishnevski, a Russian immigrant and number six on the Keshet list, photographed with his son, prefers to talk of ethnic 'disconnectedness' rather than hostility; (below) Two Russian youths hang out in Ashdod's 'Yud' neighborhood. (Photos: Jonathan Blouin)

Surface calm, with a stormy undertow

Larry Derfner visited Ashdod to investigate reports of open ethnic strife between its Russian and Sephardi communities and found coexistence – of a kind

And how are things in the port city of Ashdod? Amos Oz asked in the concluding chapter of his mid-1980s nonfiction book, *In the Land of Israel*.

After listening to the complaints and rages of settlers, Palestinians, haredim and Beginites Sephardim, Oz went to Ashdod and decided that it was Israel at its best – a place of ordinary, everyday charms, without any great causes or holy wars, "a city of human scale."

With a month to go until the November 10 local elections, is Ashdod still so blessedly placid? If you go strictly by the local news, it appears not.

On Tuesday there was supposed to be a huge gathering of Sephardim protesting the "takeover" of Ashdod by Russian immigrants. The organizer, Beber Alfasi, a local contractor and number eight on the Likud election list for city council, took pains to point out that the rally was only aimed at "non-Jewish Russians."

It would have drawn "3,000-4,000 people," he said, but he decided to cancel it at the last minute because "the people on top – Ovadia Yosef, Aryeh Deri, Avigdor Lieberman – pressured everybody not to come."

How did he know? "This is what I heard," he said.

Then there was the prominently featured *Yediot Aharonot* article of Friday, September 20, "Moroccans vs. Russians and vice versa," in which Ashdod starred as "a fascinating laboratory of social conflict, of tensions that arise amidst the golden sand of the beach...."

Talking with people on the streets and in shops on Tuesday, it seemed that just about all of Ashdod's Russians and Sephardim had heard of the *Yediot* article, and most knew of the scheduled anti-Russian rally. (Nobody, however, seemed to know who Beber Alfasi was, or that he had already called off the event.)

The overall picture they presented was of a city that is decidedly not in the grip of ethnic conflict, no matter what *Yediot* or Alfasi say.

"We don't feel it here. It's only between the politicians," called out a Russian couple after eavesdropping on an interview with Russian teenagers in the overwhelmingly Russian "Yud" neighborhood.

But while Russian-Sephardi relations in Ashdod tend to run from peaceful co-existence to genuine good-neighborliness, there is a subterranean element of suspicion which sometimes surfaces as enmity.

"We get along with the Sephardim in school, but we go our separate ways when we go home," one of the Russian teenagers said. He added: "And if there's any problem, we're twice as smart as they are, we can walk all over them easily." His friend said the ethnic bad blood was only between the adults, not the youth.

"When we hang out here at night and start getting loud, the Sephardim men in the building yell out, 'Get out of here, you stinking Russians,' and the cops come," he said.

Such outbursts, though, seem to be rare in Ashdod.

"There are no wars, no fights, no tension between Russians and Sephardim here, only between the politicians," said a resident journal-

ist who has been covering Ashdod for the last decade. "Maybe some people have bigoted attitudes, but these kinds of attitudes haven't caught on at the public level."

With some 170,000 residents – about 30 percent Russians, 40 percent Sephardim – Ashdod is divided into strongly ethnic neighborhoods – Russians in Yud and Yud-Gimmel, Moroccans in Aleph and Bet, Indians in Gimmel. The religious, mainly Sephardi haredim, dominate Zayin.

Politically, the city seems to be held together by Likud Mayor Zvi Zilker, who is considered a sure winner for re-election.

"Even though I support Labor in the national elections, I'm voting for Zilker," said a Russian immigrant man in Yud.

It's easy enough to see why Zilker is so popular – Ashdod is a boom town, and has been throughout the decade. Apartment buildings are going up everywhere, there's a new City Hall, and a new cultural complex is under construction.

"Zilker doesn't only build, he builds with good sense – there are plenty of preschools and schools in the new neighborhoods," the immigrant man said.

THIS is a Likud city. Zilker's opponent in the mayor's race, Yehiel Lasri, is a Likudnik running on an independent ticket. Ashdod's leading Russian immigrant politician, Deputy Mayor Senya Katznelson, is a Likudnik whom Zilker dispatched to lead an "independent" list of Russian candidates for city council, in order to head off Yisrael B'Aliya. It was a bloc vote by Russian



Likud members in the local party primary that kept Alfasi from gaining the number two spot on the list, and this seems to be why he began speaking out in the media against the Russian "invasion" of Ashdod, the journalist said.

Alfasi, 38, who came as an infant from Morocco to Israel, said the influx of Russian Gentiles was threatening Israel's Jewish character. "It's not just happening in Ashdod, it's happening all over the country," he said.

"We get along with the Sephardim in school, but then we go our separate ways... we're twice as smart as they are, we can walk all over them"

— a Russian teenager

The powers that be were afraid to stand up to the threat, he continued, because it served the political interests of parties whom he didn't want to name. "In another few years this won't even be a Jewish country anymore, it'll be a mixed country," he said.

At number eight on the Likud's list, Alfasi has a reasonable chance of getting into the City Council. Last Friday another list in the election, Keshet (Rainbow) Ashdod, led a march of about 150

people through downtown to protest Alfasi's rally plans. In the Yud shopping center, Dimitri Vishnevski, a Russian immigrant and number six on the Keshet list, said that while there was no ethnic hostility in Ashdod that he could point to, there was ethnic "disconnectedness."

"Everybody lives among his own group, and is only concerned about his own group," he said. Asked what Keshet planned to do to bring Ashdod's ethnic groups

twined throughout the election line-up, he continued, underlining his contention that ethnic strife in Ashdod had been invented by Alfasi and picked up by the media.

A Russian immigrant man in Yud emphasized: "There is no conflict, but these stories might cause a conflict." He's probably right. For the sake of Ashdod's co-existence, it's probably better than people don't discuss their ethnic differences too much. Candor isn't always refreshing.

IN the Chaos hair parlor downtown, Ofer Elmakayis, 22, who lives in town with his Libyan-born parents, was running his hands through the hair of Varda Hayat, 30, who came here with her husband and daughter from the Ukraine. They call each other by their first names.

Elmakayis, a Likud supporter, said he's all in favor of a Russian list in the city council. "They know their own needs best, and they should speak up for themselves," he said.

But as he continued, Elmakayis prefaced his remarks by saying to Hayat, "Excuse me, I don't mean this against you, I don't want to stigmatize you." Hayat nodded her head like she understood, and kept looking at the mirror.

"We get along with them, but there is some tension," Elmakayis said. "On Friday night, you go to the beach and all you see is Russians having barbecues. The people living near the beach are mainly traditional, and they smell the barbecues and it bothers them a little. It harms the Shabbat atmosphere."

"Then there's something else," Elmakayis continued. "You used to hear so many times that a Sephardi man with a wife and five children was getting divorced and marrying a young Russian

woman. And why did the woman go after the man? Because he had money and she didn't."

"So a lot of people here began thinking of the Russian women – excuse me for saying this – as whores. Now you won't find a Russian cleaning woman in a Sephardi house because the wives are afraid they'll steal their husbands."

"All the wives feel this way. Look, families were being destroyed."

Elmakayis was fluffing and clipping Hayat's hair. Hayat was telling him a little more this way or that way. Every now and then she'd made a point like, "My daughter's best friend is a Moroccan boy," or, "I'm not religious, but my grandparents and all my family are Jewish." Elmakayis nodded his head. They were getting along.

Hayat said "too much attention" had been paid to the issue of Russian women and Sephardi men. She noted that before her family came to Ashdod, they lived in Rishon LeZion – "and we all made barbecues on the beach on Shabbat, immigrants and Israelis."

She spoke with restraint. She seemed like she wanted, above all, to avoid an argument. Asked who she was voting for, Hayat said she hadn't made up her mind.

Another regular customer dropped in and Elmakayis began talking to her.

Hayat, swiveling gently back and forth in her chair, became pensive. "It's not easy living here," she said. "Everyone is an immigrant, and we're different from each other."

By "There," she might have meant "in Ashdod," or she might have meant "in Israel" – or she might have meant "in Jewish life, and especially in Ashdod."

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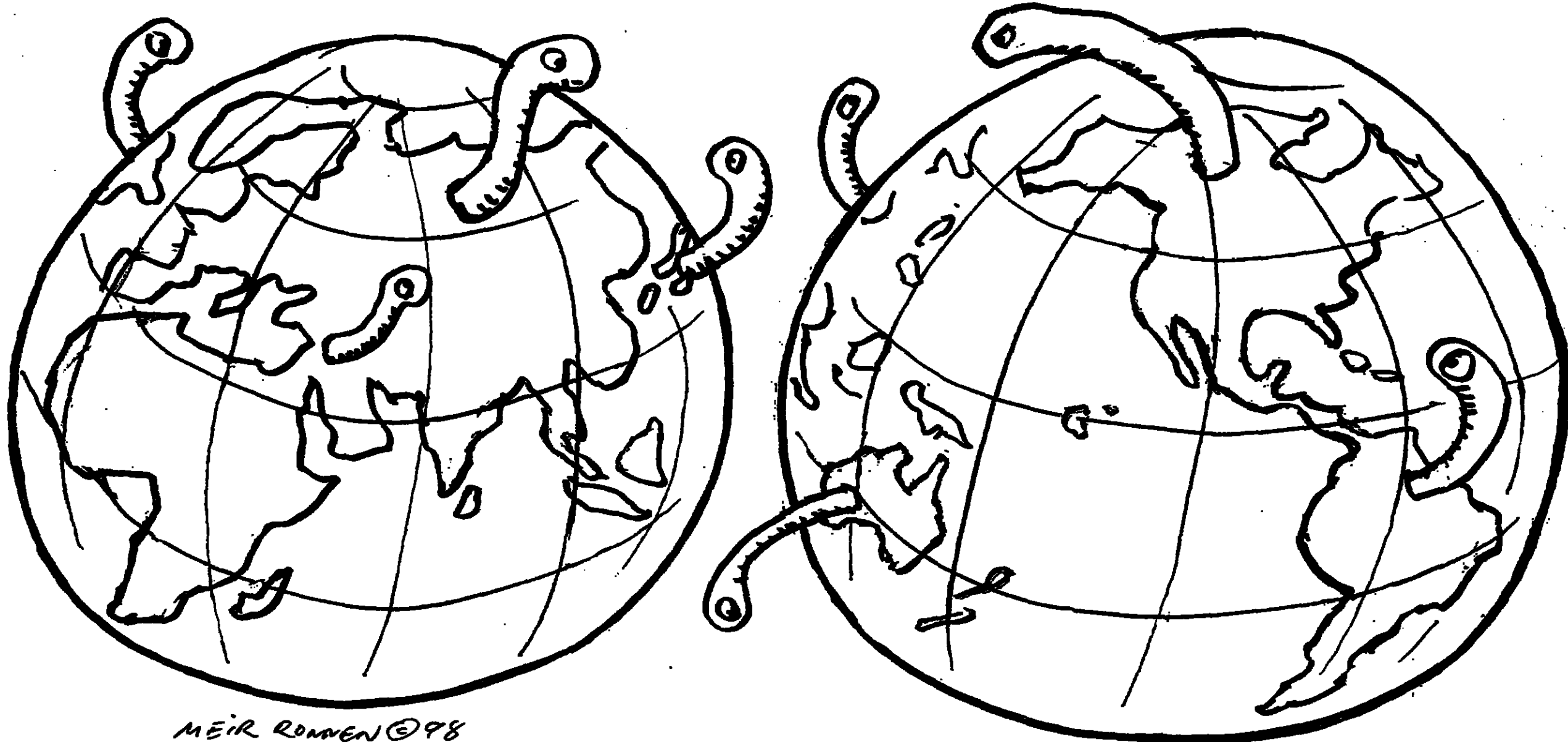
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CLIP AND SAVE

Dizzying crisis has the experts stumped



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After more than a year of dizzying financial turmoil in many corners of the globe, a broad outline of an allied strategy is slowly forming to cope with future crises.

As for the crisis at hand, however, a solution remained beyond the reach of the world's elite financial policy-makers as they held a series of meetings in Washington this week. The government officials found themselves stymied by an unprecedented unique predicament for which history offers no guidance.

"I don't think anyone has any idea what to do," said one financial official who requested anonymity to avoid embarrassing his organization.

The officials took heart from one piece of news: Republican leaders in the US House of Representatives signaled that they were ready to provide the full \$18 billion line of credit that President Clinton had requested for the International Monetary Fund - provided that Clinton pledged to seek specific reforms in IMF practices.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, signaled a possible compromise by praising Clinton for "finally stepping up to the plate" in seeking reform of the

IMF, which has exhausted its reserves on bailouts for countries that have been swamped by financial chaos.

The list of GOP reforms, which include new openness by the IMF and an end to loans at extra-low interest rates, is similar to those that Clinton is pushing now.

DESPITE such movement, a sense of uncertainty and even fear pervaded the series of meetings involving the world's leading financial officials. Institutions such as the IMF were created in a day when financial crises were national, not global - long before private wealth could race like a wildfire over national boundaries.

Indeed, these very same officials symbolize the financial order that now teeters so precariously, spreading chaos from one emerging economy to another.

"It's turning into a scary movie where people don't know what's going to pop up next," said Daniel Yergin, chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Washington.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus described the dilemma in more bureaucratic terms: "We are speaking not just of countries in crisis but of a system in crisis, a

Financial wizards trying to solve the global economic crisis are finding it easier to work out an allied strategy for the future than to rectify today's turmoil. Jonathan Peterson and Chris Kraul report

system not yet sufficiently adapted to the opportunities and risks of globalization."

In a speech to the annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF, President Clinton stressed the urgent need for action. "We must, we must keep working until we find the right answers, and we don't have a moment to waste," he declared.

National governments must disclose more information about their financial condition, he said. And developing nations that have fallen prey to speculative attacks on their currencies must embrace free-market economic reforms.

"I am confident that if we act together we can end the present crisis," Clinton insisted. "We must take urgent steps to help those who have been hurt by it, to limit the reach of it and to restore confidence in the global economy." Later Tuesday, the White House floated the idea of a summit of

national leaders in Washington later this year on the global economic crisis.

"No one should expect an overnight pill to deal with the problem we're facing. It isn't going to happen that way"
- economist Allen Sinai

IN graphic contrast to their uncertainties about today's crisis, officials moved toward strategies to

forestall such episodes in the future.

There appeared to be little controversy over some of these measures, which would include increased disclosure requirements for international investment funds and greater financial disclosure by governments.

Also facing clear sailing was a US proposal for IMF lines of credit for emerging countries under financial siege despite responsible economic policies. Clinton lobbied for the proposal, describing it as "a critical way to prevent the present crisis from reaching Latin America and other regions which are doing well."

In addition, it is likely that the World Bank and other organizations will upgrade their ability to provide emergency aid to beleaguered developing nations, where conservative economic policies may create social hardship and spark a political backlash.

These strategies are meant to defuse future outbreaks of finan-

cial turmoil, not to treat the current one. "Eventually it will be useful," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Norwest Corp., a regional bank in Minneapolis. "But our immediate problem is to stop the snowball which is gaining speed."

Allen Sinai, chief economist with Primark Decision Economics in New York and Boston, said it was unrealistic to expect a quick fix. "No one in the world should expect an overnight pill to deal with the problem we're facing," he said. "It just isn't going to happen that way."

He maintained that the focus on the need for global growth policies, the effort to cobble together an aid package for Brazil and the emphasis on the need for Japan to reform its own economic policies could pay off in the future.

"It is a plus. It just doesn't lead to any action right away," he said.

OFFICIALS of the emerging markets have lamented that private investors seem to yank their money out of their countries indiscriminately, punishing nations that have followed responsible policies along with those that have not. The loss of confidence has translated into higher capital costs and higher deficits, slowing economies and sparking social pressures.

The government of Brazil, for example, has to pay investors 20

percent interest to entice them to buy its bonds, 15 points more than the US Treasury pays its long-term bond holders.

US experts remained deeply divided over whether to impose new controls on the flow of investment capital into and out of nations. The unfettered flow of capital has been a fundamental principle in the emergence of the modern global economy, just as its rapid movement has proven to be savagely disruptive.

All concerned seemed to agree, however, that there should be better reporting and supervision of investments worldwide so that investors and lenders know who is lending what to whom. The collapse of banking systems in Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea revealed the existence of billions in loans that even the savviest of financiers were unaware of.

Last week the IMF's chief economist, Michael Mussa, hinted that some form of regulation might be in order. He pointed out that capital flows into emerging markets fell in one month from an annual rate of \$400 billion in July to zero in August.

"Capital is like fire," he said. "It heats your house, powers your car, makes you warm. But it can also burn you down."

(Los Angeles Times)

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Ehud Barak is trying to remodel himself and his party to fit the center-left image that Britain's Tony Blair and Germany's Gerhard Schröder have ridden to victory. Can he pull it off? **Michal Yudelman** investigates

But MK Haggai Merom, who also followed the British and German elections, is among several party stalwarts dubious of Barak's



Barak's manifesto: 'This time we will do it. We will bring this spirit of a real center here.'

"Barak doesn't have the charisma or the charm of Blair or Schroeder," he said bluntly. "He doesn't command the love of the masses that they won in their campaigns. Furthermore, one doesn't feel that enthusiasm and urgency with which they delivered the message that the old arthritic regimes had to go."

But more optimistic Labor sup-

"We're not talking about a change of image for Barak but of different energies," said Isaac Herzog, a special policy adviser to Barak. "This is a different kind of behavior and leadership, focused



Sneh, who opposed Barak for party leadership, today says he is on the right track.
(Isaac Harari)

A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie, smiling slightly. The image is grainy and appears to be a photocopy or a low-quality scan. The man is looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and indistinct.

Merom: 'Barak doesn't have the charisma or the charm of Blair or Schroeder - he doesn't command the love of the masses.' (Isaac Herzog)

Barak also recommends a new multilingual, multicultural university in Galilee serving the Jewish and Arab residents. Today these students - including many new immigrants - have to travel to Beersheba, Tel Aviv, Haifa or Jerusalem for higher education.

Yehezkel also doubts Barak's ability, or even desire, to change the party, saying the former chief of staff simply seeks victory and could not care less if the party crumbles away. The direct election system offers him this opportunity - again.

in poll results dating back to the days when Rabin was mostly ranked equal with opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu.

"Every Sunday the new leadership forum convenes in Barak's office. We discuss everything on the agenda. There are no personal

ess plots against Rabin, and note that no one cast doubts on Rabin's leadership.

Ben-Ami, conferring with Barak: The key to reform is housing and higher education.

The Israeli New Deal

has prevented Labor from reconstructing itself, both in organization and in content."

I'm not against private education for those who want it, but the fact that the state is financing it is simply crazy."

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هكذا من الراجح

When dull politics becomes high drama

The Jerusalem mayoral race took on national significance when Shimon Peres declared his support for Ehud Olmert and Olmert plucked a running mate seemingly out of nowhere.

Herb Keinon reports

For months the campaign for Jerusalem mayor was a dull non-contest between the brash — some say abrasive — incumbent with prime ministerial aspirations, and the populist — some say chip-on-his-shoulder — challenger unable to garner even his own party's full-fledged support.

The Ehud Olmert-Shimon Shetreet contest generated little passion, and no interest.

That was until the Labor Party's heavyweights, Ehud Barak and Shimon Peres, stepped into the ring and began to stir it up. Then dull politics turned into high political drama, and the wheeling and dealing of a local political campaign suddenly took on national significance.

With just over a month before the election, Labor's Uzi Baram — Hamlet-like in his indecisiveness about whether to run for the Jerusalem mayoralty — finally announced his candidacy last week. Then, a few hours later, he backed out.

As all this was taking place, Jerusalem's Labor Party headquarters head Haim Cohen, with Peres's blessing, signed an agreement with Olmert to run on a joint ticket. Barak threw a fit, denounced Peres, ousted Cohen from his job and locked him out of his office. There was talk of this incident presaging a Barak-Peres split inside Labor.

The cast of characters in this drama is made up of consummate politicians, men for whom attaining and maintaining power is their art: Peres, Barak, Olmert, Shetreet, Baram, Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg, Moshe Shahal, a former cabinet minister, and Nissim Zivili, a former secretary-general of Labor.

Ironically, the person likely to benefit the most from the vigorous churning in the various political pots is former police inspector Rafi Peled — a most un-political-like personality.

Suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, Peled — currently the director general of the Israel Electric Corporation — was tapped

as Olmert's No. 2.

BEING Olmert's No. 2 has added significance this time around, amid speculation that the mayor may leave city hall at mid-term to run against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This speculation gained momentum this week when former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira, while talking to NRP activists about prospects of a second-stage withdrawal from the territories, mused out loud that if Netanyahu goes through with the withdrawal, Olmert might be a better candidate for the "national camp."

Olmert has strenuously denied any intention to quit and run for prime minister. In an Israel Radio interview he stated emphatically, "I want to be

short, an heir-apparent was born. Peled, predictably, denied all this. He said that his interest in joining Olmert's list is motivated not by burning mayoral ambitions, but by a powerful urge to contribute from his vast experience in the city, to the city.

"Ehud [Olmert] is running for another term," Peled said. "I also see the possibility that he will run for another term after that."

"My joining him was not conditional on any agreement that I replace him in another two years. I am joining in order to contribute what I can to Jerusalem, I think that the list together with me and Ehud is stronger, an added value to Jerusalem."

As to whether he has his eye on the mayor's chair somewhere down the road, Peled replied: "Political life changes all the time; who can commit on something like this?"

Peled, though no stranger to Jerusalem or the public, is a political novice. Born in Kibbutz Hazorea, he moved to Jerusalem in 1965. After serving as a paratrooper officer, he joined the General Security Service, where he held senior posts in the capital until 1975. Then he moved to the police, where he engaged in intelligence work.

Among the police positions he held were head of the Intelligence Division at National Police Headquarters, Southern District police chief, Jerusalem police chief, and inspector-general.

In an interview he comes across as soft-spoken and reticent, bordering on the bashful. These are not the ingredients of the country's politicians. Here is a man who, when he served as police inspector-general in 1993-1994, took great pains to stay out of the limelight.

An artist who has published a book of sketches and has a sculpture displayed in the foyer of the Jerusalem Theater, Peled leaves one with the impression of an intelligent man with a sensitive soul. Also not the ingredients generally associated with being a chief of police. Yet chief of police he was.

Yitzhak Rabin, who had enormous respect for Peled, once called him the best police chief the country ever had — until he was forced to resign over the so-called "Jacuzzi Affair."

A photograph of Peled and other senior police officers soaking in the Jacuzzi of a Tiberias hotel in 1994 led to an investigation of whether large hotel discounts he received were inappropriate gifts. Peled stepped down after the High Court ordered an investigation into whether disciplinary action should be taken against him. Soon after he became director-general of the Israel Electric Corporation.

As Peled now mounts the political stage — though he argues that the Jerusalem municipality is not really politics — he realizes that this history will be raised again.

"It is essential for people who can contribute to enter the arena"

—Rafi Peled

mayor of Jerusalem. Someone who runs in 1998 for mayor of Jerusalem intends to be mayor of Jerusalem. I have no agreement to run elsewhere in two years."

Yet, even with this clear declaration, he would not say unequivocally that he would not seek to run in 2000. Politics, indeed, is very fluid. Besides, cynics ask, what is Olmert — on the eve of elections — going to tell the voters? That they are voting him in for only two years?

The placement of Peled in the No. 2 slot means that if, for some reason, Olmert does step down, Peled would step up. And even if Olmert decides to delay a prime ministerial bid until 2004, being No. 2 would make Peled, 54, a front-runner in Jerusalem's municipal elections in 2003. In



(Above): Olmert with Rafi Peled (left) at the recent opening of Jerusalem's new electricity substation: If Olmert steps down, Peled will step up. (Left): Rafi Peled.

(Elina Hareli)

Indeed, when he was appointed a member of the Ciechanover committee investigating the bungled assassination attempt against Hamas leader Khaled Masha'al in Jordan, there were those who argued that the Jacuzzi affair had made him unfit to sit on such a panel. Nobody listened.

"In order to contribute, you have to be involved," Peled said, when asked if the prospect of a dirty political campaign — either now or in the future — concerns him. "You can't sit on the fence and criticize and say things are not being done right, and not contribute."

"It is essential for people who can contribute to enter the arena. I think that the wider the circle the better, but it is impossible to enter into the fight without entering the ring," he said.

Peled, who called the Jacuzzi affair a "marginal incident," said that by taking personal responsibility and resigning over it, he set a high standard.

"I think that, by all measures, Rafi Peled is a modest man, with good values. I think that if my level of morality were the average in the state, it would be a very

good country."

OLMERT'S inclusion of Peled on his list has been trumpeted in the press as an attempt by the mayor to temper his hard-line image with someone a bit more moderate.

Peled, whose political opinions are unknown to the public, was largely characterized in these reports as "left." These characterizations, he said, are not accurate.

"I have never been a party person," he said, sitting in the office of the district head of the Israel Electric Corporation in Jerusalem, an office that affords a panoramic view of the city and surrounding hills.

Peled's own offices are in Haifa and Tel Aviv.

"I was never a party person. I don't like the labels because in Israel the camps are not fixed. There is being left on social issues, and left on diplomatic issues. And Jerusalem is another story altogether. I would say — and I am relating only to Jerusalem — that I am in the center. I agree with the consensus: a united Jerusalem, Israel's capital, full sovereignty." Peled is careful not to criticize

Olmert's position on controversial topics like building in Har Homa, the opening of the Western Wall tunnel, and a planned Jewish neighborhood in Ras al-Amud. He does hint, however, that he would do things a bit differently.

"Har Homa is an Israeli area," he said. "Most of the land there is Jewish, and it did not necessitate that much expropriation. It is contiguous to Jerusalem, and does not infringe on the rights of anyone else. In my eyes it is a region of natural growth for the city. We need to build Har Homa."

Peled also said that an agreement to build Har Homa should be negotiated with the Palestinians as part of a greater package deal.

"I am aware that it has turned into a symbol, and needs to be dealt with wisely and sensitively. If we go forward now with another withdrawal, and give back more than a few assets, then within this framework is should be possible to come to an understanding over these matters as well."

Peled also said that, by rights, the Western Wall tunnel — an issue he was familiar with as part of the

police's top brass — should indeed be open. He would not directly answer, however, whether it was wise to open the tunnel in 1996, a move that was followed by widespread Palestinian rioting.

"In the past we didn't open the tunnel because we were waiting for the right time. I wasn't involved in the actual opening of the tunnel, so I don't want to talk about what was done and how," he said.

Asked whether, had he been inspector-general at the time he would have advised against opening the tunnel, Peled said, "I don't want to say what would have happened 'if.' In my time it was not opened." As far as plans to build a Jewish neighborhood in Ras al-Amud are concerned, Peled's disagreements with the mayor become sharper.

"I don't know all the details, but I think that in Jerusalem there has to be a great deal of consideration given. One of the central issues in this city has to be how to function with minimum friction, and give everyone their maximum freedom without harming others. Just as I know there is a consensus against building tennis courts in middle of Mea She'anim, so here too we need to find the wise solution."

"I say wise solution," Peled continued, "because legally there is no problem — it [Ras al-Amud] is part of Jerusalem, land bought by Jews, and the building has passed through all the committees. But I would say that at the present it would be better to postpone plans to build there. We don't need to look for more areas of friction."

Peled said that it is natural for him and Olmert not to see everything totally the same way.

"Even if there is 90 percent agreement there are points we don't completely agree on."

Nevertheless, said Peled — who considers Olmert a close friend — "My views on Jerusalem are similar to Ehud's: to ensure the unity and sovereignty over Jerusalem. As far as content is concerned, we see eye to eye."

From a man who chooses his words carefully, this phraseology is telling. The content of their views is similar, but their respective form, their signature styles, may likely prove to be quite different.



Campaign posters of Shimon Shetreet get the thumbs-down treatment from the man in the street. (Brian Hendler)

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09:45 Commerce in the Electronic Age - An Overview

Mr. Robert Caplehorn (England)
Prof. Roger Brownsword (England)
Dr. Niva Elken-Koren (Israel)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 The Electronic Contract - The Electronic Signature and Related Issues

Prof. Nick Huls (The Netherlands)
Mr. Victor Bouganin (Israel)
Mr. Zeev Sher (Israel)

14:15 Electronic Payment Systems - Opportunities and Challenges in the European Experience

Mr. Rainer Metz (Germany)
Mr. Jean Allix (Belgium)
Mr. Yves Jomouton (Belgium)

15:45 Coffee Break

16:00 Commentators:
Dr. Menachem Guterman (Israel)
Mr. Haim Ravia (Israel)

Monday, October 19th 1998

09:00 The Electronic Purse - Towards a Cashless Society?

Dr. Hugo Godschalk (Germany)
Mr. Robert Caplehorn (England)
Mr. Allen Zysblat (Israel)
Prof. Moshe Kim (Israel)

11:00 Coffee Break

Questions and Comments

13:30 Credit Information and Credit Rating in the Consumer Age - The International Experience

Prof. Nick Huls (The Netherlands)
Israel's Proposed Legislation on Consumer Credit Information

Ms. Tana Spanic (Israel)
Mr. Eyal Yanay (Israel)

15:30 Coffee Break

15:45 Panel Discussion: Privacy in the Electronic Age

16:45 Summary and Conclusions

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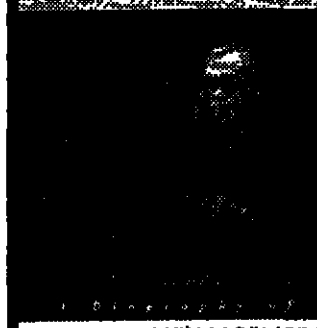


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West Ham: Berkovic wants to stay

Club official: Any more misbehavior by Hartson and we will come down on him like a ton of bricks

By MARK RIVLIN and agencies

LONDON — West Ham United yesterday attempted to diffuse the growing furor surrounding the incident at the club's training ground last week between Eyal Berkovic and John Hartson.

The London club have had clear-the-air talks with Berkovic and insisted the Israeli international midfielder is happy to stay at the club.

West Ham director of football, Peter Storrie, also urged the Football Association (FA) not to get involved in the aftermath of the incident. This was in response to Wednesday's request by the FA to see a video supplied to Sky TV by a West Ham fan who was present at the training session.

Storrie told reporters: "I have spoken to both Eyal and his agent today and both of them told me he has no intention of asking for a transfer. His general mood was good and he just wants to concentrate on playing for his country in two forthcoming European Championship qualifiers."

Storrie added that he was expecting to meet with Berkovic and Hartson when they return next week, and while praising Hartson's soccer talents, Storrie said there would be a "very detailed discussion" with the 23-year-old international about his future after the training ground incident 11 days ago.

"I will be making it abundantly clear that any further misbehavior

by John, of any nature whatsoever, is going to come down like a ton of bricks on him," Storrie told ITV television.

Hartson, West Ham's top goalscorer last season, has been repeatedly punished at the club for misdemeanors and was this week fined by a Welsh court for using a pub's hanging basket of flowers as a football.

Both Storrie and team manager Harry Redknapp said Hartson had no excuse for kicking Berkovic but they were angry with the Israeli for subsequent comments. They insisted they wanted both men to stay.

"They're both terrific young players and I want to keep them both at the club," said Redknapp.

In response to the FA's request to see the video Storrie said: "This is surely an internal affair for West Ham to deal with and I am sure the FA will trust us to do the right thing."

"I shall be contacting the FA to let them know my feelings on this issue. If they start looking at videos from training ground incidents then it will lead to cameras being banned by every club in the country."

Storrie's words were echoed by Redknapp who said: "Somewhere around the country there will be a fight because players are competitive and these things happen."

The sports pages of the tabloid press led on the story again yesterday with *The Daily Mirror* setting up a fax line for fans to air their views.



Eyal Berkovic waves to fans as he gets off the bus in San Marino where Israel are to play a European Championship qualifier tomorrow night. Next off the bus is Haim Revivo. (AP)

Israel looking for major boost in San Marino

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Israel's national soccer team completed two days of training at the Republic of San Marino ahead of their European qualifying game tomorrow night (kickoff 20:30, live on Channel 1) but speculations regarding the starting lineup are still rife.

Celta Vigo's Haim Revivo, who wasn't a 100 percent fit before arriving in San Marino, added worries to coach Shlomo Scharf's selection problems by falling ill.

Revivo, who is supposed to lead the side in the absence of Tal Banin and the fact that Betar Jerusalem's Amir Shelah, who himself looks like losing his place in the starting line up, leaves West Ham's midfielder, Eyal Berkovic, to wear the skipper's armband for the first time.

Berkovic, who has been in the headlines in both Israeli and

England following his incident with club mate John Hartson has never skipped a side in his career.

The good news for Scharf came from Tal Banin, who turned up with Brescia's doctor in order to train with the side, and could be included in the squad after all.

Banin's surprising form on the training ground has impressed Scharf who said: "Banin is in great shape, all that is left now is to watch him a bit closer in order to decide (whether he can play)."

"Banin worked really hard to regain his fitness and he looks fantastic and sharp," added Scharf.

The addition of Banin to the squad would be a massive boost to the side ahead of the game against Spain at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan on Wednesday.

Scharf is desperate to get Banin back into the side and gave every indication that he could play tomorrow. "He may be involved in

the action as early as Saturday night if the result is right," the coach said.

While the battle for the No. 1 jersey between Maccabi Tel Aviv's Rafi Cohen and Maccabi Haifa's impressive Nir Davidovich continues, Cohen appears likely to retain his place ahead of Davidovich who received great reviews following his performance against Paris St. Germain.

The defense looks certain to be dominated by two members from each of the Haifa clubs as Hapoel's Ran Ben-Shimon and Najwan Grayeb together with Maccabi's Alon Harazi and Arik Benado will occupy a center-back and a full-back each.

Hapoel Petah Tikva's Walid Badir seems certain to play the anchorman in midfield alongside Betar Jerusalem's Jan Talasnikov, while Maccabi Tel Aviv's Avi Nirani will play on the left and

Eyal Berkovic will play on the right.

Up front comes Scharf's biggest question: Who will partner Maccabi Haifa's Alon Mizrahi?

Ofir Shitrit, who has failed to impress in training so far, may get the nod thus making his international debut at the age of 28 if Revivo is declared unfit.

San Marino's 260-strong police force members are already on full alert following the Israel contingent's arrival. Some 3,000 spectators fans are expected to turn up at the Cereba stadium, about 200 of them will be Israelis.

The size of the crowd is over 10 percent of the entire population of a country which has two prime ministers.

The trip to San Marino is the last for the Israel staff's longest-serving member, team manager Avraham Benderon, a former international goalkeeper. He is retiring at the end

of the year after 20 years in the job. Israel's Under 21 side face their Dutch opposite numbers in Tilburg this evening (kickoff 18:00, live on Channel 5) in their second group game.

Coach Yitzhak Shum, who hasn't seen the Dutch side even on video, hasn't made up his mind about the starting line up and has said: "We will be happy to return with a draw, but we would obviously be happy to win."

Israel beat Austria 1-0 in their first outing last month.

Maccabi Haifa's star, Yossi Benayoun, who used to be on Ajax Amsterdam's books, recognizes a few of his opponents and is certain to attract most of the attention from the Dutch side who were boosted by the visit of Holland's full team newly-appointed coach Frank Rijksdijk, who arrived to wish the young side good luck ahead of the clash.

FA voices fears over BSKyB-Man. Utd. deal

LONDON (Reuters) — The English Football Association confirmed yesterday that it had written to the Office of Fair Trading to voice its fears over the planned billion dollar takeover of Manchester United by pay TV group BSKyB.

An FA spokeswoman confirmed comments attributed to FA Chairman Keith Waisman in which he expressed concern that the deal could make United too powerful.

"The FA have written to the OFT saying that if the bid is allowed to go through it will create a situation where not only the strength of one club but also the influence of one club would extend far beyond the range of others," the *Daily Telegraph* quoted Waisman as saying.

"The overall message we have conveyed is this is not something to be welcomed," he added.

The OFT has until November 2 to consider the £623 million (\$1.07 billion) bid for United by BSKyB, a company controlled by media mogul Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

"We've had good practices, and we're looking forward to the weekend and the start of the season," Fleury said.

Before leaving for Japan, players of both teams complained about traveling so far from home for their season openers.

Since their arrival, however, the time change has not seemed such a major problem, said Calgary defenseman Todd Simpson, the team captain.

"To be honest, I haven't really thought about (jet lag)," he said, adding that the team will have five days off after returning home and that should be enough to readjust.

Flames, Sharks ready for NHL openers in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Calgary Flames right wing Theoren Fleury knows something about combating trans-Pacific jet lag to play hockey in Japan.

He was here for the Olympics in February. Now he is back for his team's National Hockey League season-opening two games against the San Jose Sharks in Tokyo this weekend.

"I never expected to be here twice in the same year," said Fleury, who played for Canada in the Nagano Olympics.

He said he has been advising teammates on how to minimize jet lag and adjust their body clocks for the games tomorrow and Sunday.

SPORTS

in brief

Leicester determined to keep O'Neill

LONDON (Reuters) — Leicester City said yesterday they were determined to keep manager Martin O'Neill despite the efforts of English premier league rivals Leeds United to lure him to Elland Road.

"Leicester City will do all they can to keep him — and more," finance director Steve Kind said.

Kind dismissed as "absolute nonsense" media reports that O'Neill had a clause in his contract which would mean the club would receive only £250,000 in compensation were he to leave after October 31.

Leeds, seeking a new manager after George Graham left for Tottenham Hotspur, have been refused permission to approach O'Neill by the Leicester board.

Becker gives Sampras wild card for Vienna

VIENNA (Reuters) — Boris Becker has given world No. 1 Pete Sampras his wild card for the CA-Trophy starting on Monday in Vienna, organizers said yesterday.

Becker, a winner in Vienna two years ago, told organizers he had passed on his wild card for "sporting reasons".

Sampras, who was knocked out in the first round in the Swiss Indoor on Wednesday, will need a good performance on the indoor hard court in Vienna to keep his No. 1 ranking.

It is the American's goal for 1998 to finish the year at No. 1 for the sixth year running, beating the record of Jimmy Connors. Sampras is being pursued by US Open champion Pat Rafter of Australia and Chile's Marcelo Rios.

Seven top 10 players will be competing in Vienna's Stadthalle Arena, including Rafter.

Top pick in NHL draft signs with Lightning

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — First, rookie Vincent Lecavalier earned a roster spot. Then he signed a contract with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The first pick in this summer's National Hockey League draft, agreed to a three-year deal Wednesday, a day after learning he had played his way onto the team with a solid training camp and exhibition season.

Lecavalier, who in the past two seasons had 86 goals and 218 points in 122 games for Rimouski Oceanic of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, led the Lightning with four goals and nine points in seven preseason games.

David's century moves India to 248 for six

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Rahul Dravid's unbeaten century moved India from a precarious 22 for two to 248 for six and a 27-run lead when stumps were drawn yesterday, the second day of its one-off Test with Zimbabwe.

After India started the day at six for one, Dravid entered after Navjot Sidhu was dismissed for six. Dravid paired with Anil Kumble until he was eliminated to leave India at 49 for three.

That brought on Sachin Tendulkar and the two combined for a 75-run, fourth-wicket partnership that moved the Indians out of danger. Dravid continued to hit 14 boundaries in an unbeaten stand of 104, which also included an 88-run partnership with Sauraj Ganguly, giving him his second Test century and raising hopes that India could win only its second Test away from home in 12 years.

Finland to host Israel in Davis Cup

By HEATHER CHAIT

Finland have been drawn to host Israel in April next year in the first round of the 1999 Davis Cup tournament in the Euro African zone group 1.

Israel are back in the zonal group after their bid to re-enter the World Group failed last month when they lost 4-1 to France in Ramat Hasharon.

Finland's top player, Tuomas Ketola, is at the 150 mark in the ATP Tour rankings, not substantially higher than Israel's No. 1 racket Harel Levy (217).

The second player for the host team will be Kim Tiilikainen while Ketola usually pairs with Ville Liukko for the doubles.

The tie will most likely be played indoors given Finland's cold temperatures in April.

Captain Shlomo Glickstein told The Jerusalem Post last night he was satisfied with the draw.

"A win will be very possible

against Finland; our chances are even," he said.

Back in Israel, Lior Mor scored an unexpected victory over sixth seed Czech Radek Stepanek to become the second Israeli in the quarter finals of the \$50,000 Yitzhak Rabin Men's Challenger in Ramat Hasharon.

Mor had a smooth 6-1, 6-3 win over Stepanek.

Noam Okun is the other local player among the last eight.

Mor's next opponent will be South Africa's Neville Godwin, third seed, who beat Nenad Zimonjic from Yugoslavia 6-0, 6-1.

Other second round victors yesterday were Lars Jonsson from Sweden who beat Janne Ojala from Finland 6-2, 6-4 and Swiss Lorenzo Mantia who disposed of Swede Fredrik Jonsson 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-3.

Three Israeli players will compete in today's doubles semi-final. Okun and Nir Welgert will play Amir Hadad and Vladimir Voltchkov (Bulgaria).

Britain host US in repeat of inaugural Davis Cup tie

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain, back in the World Group of the Davis Cup for the first time since 1992, were handed a home tie against third-seeded United States in yesterday's draw.

The first round match for next year's centennial Davis Cup is a repeat of the competition's first match played between the two nations in Boston in 1900.

This time, however, the tie will be played in Britain.

With Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman in their squad, Britain has their strongest team for many years and will fancy their chances of victory.

The first round ties will be played on April 2-4, meaning Britain's preferred surface of grass will be out of action and they are likely to take on the US on an indoor court.

Former Swedish world No. 1 Stefan Edberg, now resident in Britain, said: "It is a great draw...a really good match."

"Pete (Sampras) and Andre (Agassi) coming here...it's going to create a lot of interest."

"I think certainly in April it will be too early to play on grass and to move indoors would be the choice I would go for if I was the captain."

Although Sampras and Agassi have been criticised in recent years for not supporting the competition fully, choosing to put their singles rankings first, the pair love playing in Britain and seem certain, if fit, to play.

The Lawn Tennis Association's John Crowther said: "We don't know what team the US will put out but we have an excellent chance." Crowther said Britain would select the stadium as soon as possible and mentioned Birmingham, Wembley, Newcastle and Manchester as possible candidates.

History suggests the US should advance comfortably. The visitors are the most successful Davis Cup nation, winning the trophy 31 times most recently in 1995 while Britain has triumphed nine times — the last in 1936.

The draw, conducted by Edberg, also saw 1997 champions and top seeds Sweden paired with Slovakia in a tie to be played in Sweden.

The fixture is a repeat of the 1998 first round match which Sweden just squeezed through 3-2 in Slovakia.

Second seeds Italy, who play Sweden in this year's final in December, will visit Switzerland.

Other clashes include seventh seeds Germany hosting Russia and 1996 champions France hosting the Netherlands.

Draw for the 1999 Davis Cup World Group first round made on Thursday (prefix number denotes seeding): 1-Sweden v Slovakia 7-Germany v Russia Britain v 3-US Zimbabwe v 5-Australia 6-France v Netherlands 4-Spain v Brazil Belgium v 8-Czech Republic Switzerland v 2-Italy. Matches to be played April 2-4.

Jordan leaving options open for return

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan says he is not ruling out returning to the Chicago Bulls, the

Chicago Tribune reported.

"What's most important right now is for me to see where the league is going, then look deep inside myself to make a clear-cut decision. So for now I'm keeping my options open," Jordan said in an interview published in the *Tribune's* editions yesterday and on the newspaper's Internet site.

Jordan said his final decision must await the conclusion of the NBA lockout that has canceled the preseason schedule and threatens at least part of the regular season.

Jordan, 35, said he is "completely healthy, and the love I have for basketball, for the challenge of it, is still there for me." His comments are in contrast to what the Bulls star

said in July when Jordan told a news conference he was retired, but wouldn't make it official until the lockout ended.

Jordan also said he isn't opposed to playing for Tim Floyd or for an organization still run by general manager Jerry Krause.

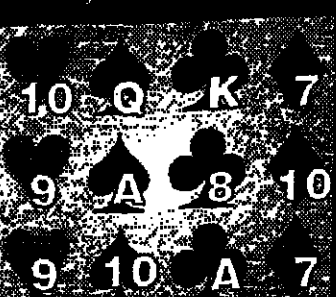
"I played with Jerry there the last five or six seasons, and we've been successful," Jordan said. "I don't like it. But that's not going to be my final deciding factor."

Jordan had indicated last season he wouldn't play for any coach but Phil Jackson, who led the Bulls to six NBA titles in the last eight years.

Jackson left this summer and the Bulls hired Floyd as coach-in-waiting.

WINNING CARDS

in yesterday's Mital Hapayis daily chance drawing



Inside

West Ham: Berkovic wants to stay

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

NBA talks resume

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The NBA and its players union resumed collective bargaining negotiations for the first time in more than two months yesterday, but neither side appeared optimistic about the prospects.

The owners and players, meeting formally for the first time since August 6, have both expressed doubts that the regular season will start as scheduled on November 3.

The owner-imposed lockout, in effect since midnight June 30, has led to cancellation of the entire preseason schedule.

The NBA, which has never lost a regular-season game due to a work stoppage, said any decisions about the cancellation of games are expected to be made next week.

The players soundly criticized the latest proposal from the league less than two weeks ago.

The major stumbling block is the league's attempt to put a ceiling on salaries and install a hard cap by phasing out the so-called Larry Bird exception. The union says the Bird exception, the clause in the previous agreement that allows teams to re-sign their own free agents without regard to the salary cap, is not negotiable.

Along with phasing out the Bird exception, the latest owners' proposal also deals with elimination of the three-year rookie scale, which allows third-year players unrestricted free agency.

Padres, Indians notch playoff wins

NEW YORK - Basic baseball turned into a comedy of errors that led to Cleveland's winning run in a 4-1 victory over the New York Yankees Wednesday in Game 2 of the American League Championship Series.

With the score 1-1, Jim Thome opened the Cleveland 12th with a single, becoming the Indians' first baserunner since the eighth inning. Manager Mike Hargrove sent in rookie Enrique Wilson to run for Thome and flashed the bunt sign to Travis Fryman, hoping to get the lead runner to second base.

Fryman dropped a perfect bunt down the first base line and accompanied the ball, which was fielded by Tino Martinez. Chuck Knoblauch covered first but Martinez's throw hit Fryman in the back and bounced past Knoblauch.

Knoblauch pointed at Fryman, claiming the Indians runner had interfered by running in fair territory. Meanwhile, the ball lay untouched and Wilson kept right on running.

By the time he rounded third, the rookie was staggering, almost falling as he headed for home. Finally, Knoblauch recovered the ball but his throw to catcher Jorge Posada was too late to catch the runner.

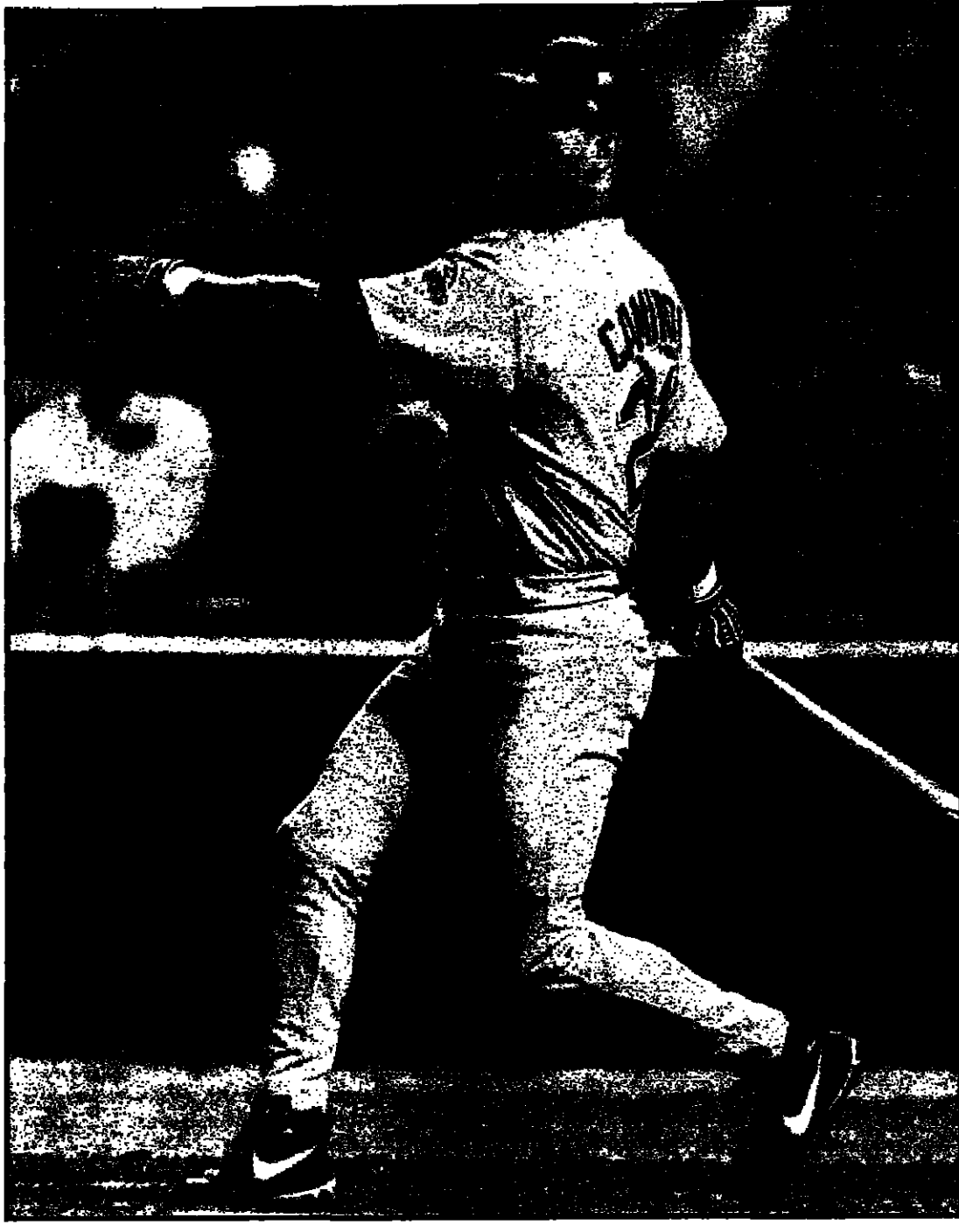
Replays indicated Knoblauch was right, that Fryman was never in the designated runner's lane next to the foul line, although he was square with the bag as he crossed it and was hit by the throw.

Yankees manager Joe Torre appealed to home plate umpire Ted Hendry and then to first base ump John Shulock.

Meanwhile, Hargrove came out to the top of the Indians dugout, ready to argue any reversal of the call. There was none.

Wilson's run counted and then Kenny Lofton's bases-loaded single delivered two more to wrap up Cleveland's victory that tied the best-of-7 series 1-1.

The record-setting Yankees have not lost games like that all season, but the Indians sat back and waited for a mistake.



GAME WINNER - San Diego's Ken Caminiti hits the game-winning home run off Atlanta pitcher Kerry Ligtenberg in the 10th inning of game 1 of the AL Championships series on Wednesday. (Reuters)

The overwhelming underdog simply outlasted the team that's supposed to walk to the World Series.

"We don't care how we get the win, as long as it was ours," Manager Mike Hargrove said. "That is the important thing. I don't think that the way it is done has much to do with any feelings of euphoria or anything else." Before the series, the Indians were seeking to split the first two games in New York.

"We did it," outfielder David Justice, who hit a solo home run in the fourth inning, said. "It's just good to get out of here with a split. The fans get crazy here. Unbelievable. The things they say. ... Now we get to our own fans."

Padres 3, Braves 2 (10 innings)
In Atlanta, Trevor Hoffman blew his second save of 1998 but Ken Caminiti picked him up with a solo homer in the top of the 10th inning to take the San Diego Padres to a 3-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves and a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

After Hoffman (1-0) suffered his second blown save in 57 opportunities this year in the bottom of the ninth, Caminiti gave

the Padres an early edge in the best-of-seven series by ripping a 3-1 pitch from closer Kerry Ligtenberg (0-1) over the wall in center field.

San Diego saw a 2-1 lead evaporate in the bottom of the ninth. Hoffman walked Ryan Klesko with one out and Javy Lopez singled into the left-field corner. Klesko aggressively took third on the play and scored when Andrew Jones lofted a sacrifice fly to deep center field.

In the bottom of the 10th,

Atlanta threatened again but Donnie Wall, who saved just one game in the regular season, retired Andres Galarraga on a long flyout to center field with the tying and winning runs aboard.

The Padres were to send their ace, Kevin Brown, to the mound in Game Two last night.

San Diego snapped a 1-1 tie in the eighth inning by pushing a run across with aggressive baserunning.

Ruben Rivera led off the inning with a double against Atlanta starter John Smoltz. John Rocker came on and retired Caminiti on a line drive to right-center field. Rivera tagged on the play and just beat the throw of center fielder Jones.

Jim Leyritz pinch hit for Wally Joyner and Dennis Martinez relieved Rocker.

Leyritz bounced the ball just to the left of the mound and Martinez glanced at Rivera, who took off for home when the pitcher threw to first. First baseman Galarraga came off the bag attempting to get the throw off quickly but made a wild throw to the plate, allowing Rivera to score the go-ahead run.

The game, delayed just over two hours at the start because of rain, was the classic pitcher's duel over the first seven innings.

Padres surprise starter Andy Ashby justified manager Bruce Bochy's faith by allowing just one run - a homer by Jones - and five hits over seven innings.

Ashby walked just one and struck out three in continuing his domination of the Braves this season. In three starts against Atlanta this season, Ashby has surrendered just three runs over 22 innings.

Late-season acquisition Randy Myers got two outs in the eighth. Dan Miceli did not retire a batter but Hoffman got the final out in the inning before struggling in the ninth.

Smoltz was nearly as good as Ashby. The postseason veteran gave up two runs and four hits over seven innings. But he was uncharacteristically wild, walking five.

Jones gave Atlanta a 1-0 lead in the third on his first home run of the postseason. The Braves wasted a leadoff double in the fourth inning.

San Diego scored in the fifth. Carlos Hernandez led off with a single. Ashby bunted the runner over and Quilvio Vera walked. Tony Gwynn then knotted the contest with a single into left-center field. (AP, Reuters)

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Padres surprise starter Andy Ashby justified manager Bruce Bochy's faith by allowing just one run - a homer by Jones - and five hits over seven innings.

Ashby walked just one and struck out three in continuing his domination of the Braves this season. In three starts against Atlanta this season, Ashby has surrendered just three runs over 22 innings.

Late-season acquisition Randy Myers got two outs in the eighth. Dan Miceli did not retire a batter but Hoffman got the final out in the inning before struggling in the ninth.

Smoltz was nearly as good as Ashby. The postseason veteran gave up two runs and four hits over seven innings. But he was uncharacteristically wild, walking five.

Jones gave Atlanta a 1-0 lead in the third on his first home run of the postseason. The Braves wasted a leadoff double in the fourth inning.

San Diego scored in the fifth. Carlos Hernandez led off with a single. Ashby bunted the runner over and Quilvio Vera walked. Tony Gwynn then knotted the contest with a single into left-center field. (AP, Reuters)

Atlanta threatened again but Donnie Wall, who saved just one game in the regular season, retired Andres Galarraga on a long flyout to center field with the tying and winning runs aboard.

The Padres were to send their ace, Kevin Brown, to the mound in Game Two last night.

San Diego snapped a 1-1 tie in the eighth inning by pushing a run across with aggressive baserunning.

Ruben Rivera led off the inning with a double against Atlanta starter John Smoltz. John Rocker came on and retired Caminiti on a line drive to right-center field. Rivera tagged on the play and just beat the throw of center fielder Jones.

Jim Leyritz pinch hit for Wally Joyner and Dennis Martinez relieved Rocker.

Leyritz bounced the ball just to the left of the mound and Martinez glanced at Rivera, who took off for home when the pitcher threw to first. First baseman Galarraga came off the bag attempting to get the throw off quickly but made a wild throw to the plate, allowing Rivera to score the go-ahead run.

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Maccabi falls again

Manresa wins EuroLeague clash 72-65

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Maccabi Tel Aviv's perfect EuroLeague season - perfectly awful, that is - continued last night, as coach Yoram Harush's club blew an 11-point halftime lead to lose its third straight European contest, 72-65 to TDK Manresa in Spain.

The loss dropped Maccabi to 0-3 in EuroLeague play, locking them deep in the cellar of Group B, where they quite honestly belong, the way they have played so far.

As for the Final Four, last night might have been the final curtain on those dreams.

Despite bearing absolutely no resemblance to a quality European team, Manresa managed to fluster Maccabi with a tenacious full-court press late in the second half, running off an incredible run to turn around a game that appeared to be safely in Maccabi's very slippery hands.

Harush elected to gamble by starting Guy Goodes in the Maccabi lineup, and for the first two thirds of the game, it paid off. But when L. Sheffer, who had an off night with just seven points, fouled out with just over four minutes to play, Goodes and the rest of the Maccabi outfit couldn't break the Spanish press.

Meanwhile the Maccabi defense, which had been much more aggressive early in the game, fell apart completely to help the Spanish to a come-from-behind victory that seemed to even surprise their fans.

When Goodes hit a three-pointer, one of three he hit on the night, Maccabi owned a 54-43 lead with just over eight minutes left. But Maccabi's "I don't want it, you take it" offense either turned the ball over on a 30-second violation, or just stood around until so took a bad shot.

The gallant Manresa players never gave up. Sensing Maccabi was tired, especially Goodes, they played kamikaze defense, getting all over anyone with the ball and trapping them along the sides of the court until Maccabi threw the ball away.

Maccabi held on at 58-52, but then the roof fell in. Juan Creus, Manresa's irascible 42-year-old point guard, scored four straight points to cut the lead to two before Willie Anderson hit a pair of free throws to open it back to 60-56.

But a three-pointer by Ferresco Vazquez, a Maccabi turnover on the way upcourt, and a hoop by Sherron Mills gave the charging home team their first lead, 62-60.

Henefeld missed a lay-up and Mills scored again and hit his foul shot to make it 65-60 with about a minute to play. Goodes hit another three to get Maccabi within two.

Henefeld could only foul Manresa's Jorde Singala as he drove to the hoop. The ball went in, Henefeld went out, and Maccabi was looking at an insurmountable 68-63 lead that grew to 72-65 by the buzzer.

Anderson, who played so well in the first half, took a powder in the second. Together, he and Victor Alexander, who again missed some chip shots inside, totaled just eight points in the second half, when money players are supposed to earn their keep.

Anderson led Maccabi with 13 points, but 11 came in the first half when he was still playing like an NBA veteran, and his teammates were playing tough defense and controlling the boards.

Alexander had 10, but missed some important foul shots and seemed to fade as a presence inside in the second half.

As for Nicola Loncar, the good news is he finally found his three-point, and even scored 10 points.

The bad news is that immediately after burying one, he insisted on trying again, sending up an air-ball that was just one of the poor shots Maccabi rushed up when the clock ran down on their horrid offense.

Harush is likely to face a great deal of criticism for not inserting Derrick Sharp into the Maccabi line-up earlier, even to give Goodes a go-to guy in crunch time and their total collapse under pressure that did them in last night.

Manresa, led by Creus's 16 and Pere Capdevila's 15, may lack top level talent, but they made up for it in intensity and commitment.

Maccabi fans can only hope for a continuation of the NBA labor dispute, and a possible ride to the rescue by Oded Katash, although truth be told, if he was watching last night, no one could blame him for preferring the New York autumn over the Tel Aviv winter ahead.

In other Group B games last night, Efes Pilsen stayed undefeated with a 73-60 triumph over Red Star Belgrade, and Panathinaikos beat Cibona Zagreb, Maccabi's opponents next week on the road, 69-61.

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ALCS

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Tuesday: New York 7, Cleveland 2

Wednesday: Cleveland 4, New York 1

Tonight: New York (Pettitte 15-11) at Cleveland (Colon 14-9)

Tomorrow: New York (Hernandez 12-4) at Cleveland (Gooden 8-5)

Sunday: New York at Cleveland

Tuesday: Cleveland at New York, if necessary

Wednesday: Cleveland at New York, if necessary

NLCS

San Diego leads series 1-0

Wednesday: San Diego 3, Atlanta 2

Last night: San Diego (Brown 18-7) at Atlanta (Glasnow 20-6)

Tomorrow: Atlanta (Maddux 18-9) at San Diego (Hatchcock 9-7)

Sunday: Atlanta at San Diego

Monday: Atlanta at San Diego, if necessary

Wednesday: San Diego at Atlanta, if necessary

Thursday: San Diego at Atlanta, if necessary

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